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Japan

Official: U.S. Unemployment Data 'Fairly Good'

OW0503153093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1450 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—A Bank of Japan (BOJ) official on Friday described the just-announced U.S. unemployment data for February as "fairly good" and predicted it will provide currency dealers an excuse to buy back the dollar.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "The figures are fairly good. I cannot say further without seeing the details but if payrolls in the manufacturing sector picked up, they are even better." However, he quickly added that the latest figures alone are not sufficient to declare that the labor climate in the U.S. will be brightening in the coming months.

The Labor Department said the nation's unemployment rate in February edged down 0.1 percentage point from January to 7.0 percent, the lowest level in more than a year. The unexpectedly strong job report has already driven New York currency traders to scramble to repurchase the dollar, which has been under heavy selling pressure against the yen, reflecting Japan's towering trade surplus.

Asked about the short-term course of the foreign exchange market, the BOJ official projected active repurchase of the dollar, which will halt the yen's recent upward March which brought it to a record closing low of 116.47 yen in Tokyo Friday.

UK Official Views Bid for SC Permanent Seat

OW0803110293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1001 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Senior British parliamentarian David Howell said Monday the issue of Japan's desire for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] must be addressed, but urged care be taken not to upset the body's effectiveness. Howell, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee in the House of Commons, also said Japan's aspiration to join the inner circle of U.N. decision-making does not conflict with Britain's objective to retain its own permanent seat.

The conservative party parliamentarian was briefing reporters on discussions over the weekend in the Britain-Japan 2000 Group, a bilateral consultative committee, which met for its ninth time in Tokyo and Numazu, Shizuoka Prefecture, late last week.

"We found that there is no conflict between the aspirations of Japan and the objectives and aims of the United Kingdom," said Howell, who chaired the 20-member British delegation. "Japan does not want to replace Britain or anybody else on the Security Council," he said. "And Britain certainly is not that blind to the need for Japan to play a more direct role in the U.N. management of the expanding peacekeeping activities."

While citing a need to "respond to (Japan's) aspiration," Howell pointed out the British Government's view that the Security Council as it is presently structured "works well, so if it does there's no point in damaging it. In general, I think our Japanese friends view to be that their first priority is that they want the system to work better," he said.

Japanese delegation leader Motoo Shiina, a House of Councillors parliamentarian, said that despite the British view that the Council is working well as is, "there is the view on the Japanese side that all we are doing now is putting up money."

The five permanent members of the 15-seat Security Council, which all wield exclusive veto power, are Britain, China, france, Russia and the United States—the major victorious powers of World War II.

Japan, which now holds one of the Council's 10 nonpermanent seats for a two-year term, wants an international consensus on the need to restructure the Council arrived at by 1995, the 50th anniversary of the U.N. Charter.

Britain, its prominence in global affairs having diminished from what it was five decades ago, is opposed to the suggestion that, along with France, it trade its seat for a single European Community seat. Howell expressed optimism that "good solutions can be found in the future."

Opposition Gives Support to Tokyo-ROK Treaty

OW0703072693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0648 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—In a major policy shift, the chairman of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) said Sunday his hitherto pro-North Korean party gives unconditional support to the Japanese-South Korean treaty.

SDP Chairman Sadao Yamahana said at a meeting of secretaries general of SDP chapters across the country that the party has decided to promote "forward-looking friendly relations" with Seoul. He also said he will set up a Japan-South Korea committee within the SDP to promote ties between his party and South Korea.

Yamahana made the remarks only three days after Kim Chae-sun, the new chairman of the South Korea-Japan Parliamentarian's Union, renewed a demand by Seoul that the SDP recognize South Korea as a legitimate government. Yamahana, who became SDP chairman only two months ago, has expressed interest in visiting Seoul, a trip which would make him the first SDP chairman to travel to South Korea.

South Korea has made the SDP's unconditional backing of the 1965 Japan-South Korea Treaty a precondition for Yamahana to visit Seoul. It was not immediately clear how it will respond to the SDP's latest shift in policy toward the Korean peninsula. The treaty established diplomatic relations between Tokyo and Seoul.

The SDP's shift in policy was prompted by the end of the cold war era, simultaneous entry into the United Nations of both South and North Korea, the election of Kim Yong-sam as South Korea's first civilian president in 32 years and other events.

In his speech to the secretaries general at party headquarters, Yamahana pledged to continue pressuring former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, an alleged key figure in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal, to quit politics.

Iran Urged To Stop Hampering Mideast Peace

OW0803122193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1155 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Japan urged Iran on Monday to stop opposing the middle East peace process and end its support for extremist Islamic fundamentalist groups outside its borders. Foreign Ministry officials said Japan filed the request during a meeting between Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito and Iranian Ambassador Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili.

Saito was quoted as urging Tehran to end its opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace talks supported by Japan and the majority of nations in the international community. He called on the Islamic state to end its support for such radical fundamentalist groups as the Hizballah (party of God) organization in south Lebanon and the Hamas in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Japan's call on Iran follows a U.S. State Department statement last Friday that branded Iran the world's "most dangerous state sponsor of terrorism."

Officials said Kazempur-Ardabili said it is not Iran's fault that the peace process is stalled, but rather that of Israel and its principal backer the United States. He said Iran's support for the Hizballah and Hamas groups is strictly political and moral. Washington has accused Tehran of extending funds, weapons, and training to the groups.

Tokyo Establishes Ties With Croatia

OW0503141093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1405 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—Japan established diplomatic relations Friday with the former Yugoslav republic of Croatia, the Foreign Ministry announced. Officials said diplomatic notes were exchanged between representatives of the two countries earlier Friday in Vienna.

The Japanese Embassy in Austria will handle Japan's relations with Croatia, as it does with Slovenia. Japan recognized Croatia and Slovenia as independent entities in March 1992. But while it established ties with Slovenia the following October, ties with Croatia were delayed due to instability associated with the Croatian-Serbian conflict, ministry officials said.

Japan has yet to recognize the other former Yugoslav republics of Bosnia-Hercegovina and Macedonia. While retaining an embassy in Belgrade, Japan has not recognized the claim of Serbia and Montenegro to have succeeded Yugoslavia.

In March 1992, when then Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic visited Tokyo, he said Croatia intended to set up an embassy in Tokyo. Last month Slovenia opened an embassy here staffed by a single diplomat.

Survey Results on Islands' Return Reported

OW0703092093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0806 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—Nearly seven out of eight Japanese surveyed favor the return of four Russian-held islands off northern Japan, a nonprofit survey organization said Sunday. But more than three out of four Russians were against returning the disputed islands, taken by the Soviet Army at the end of World War II, the Chuo Chosa-sha reported.

The report was the result of a survey taken in mid-February of 2,000 Japanese aged 20 and older and of 1,000 Russians over 16 years old. A Russian survey organization also cooperated in the poll.

In the survey, 86.7 percent of the Japanese said the "northern territories"—as Kunashiri, Etorofu and Shikotan islands and the Habomai group of islets are known in Japan—should be returned to Japan, while 76.7 percent of the Russians were opposed.

Both percentages are increases, 2.7 and 4.5 percentage points respectively, over the results of a similar survey taken three months earlier, indicating the gap in popular opinions regarding the fate of the islands is widening.

Among the Japanese respondents, 44.8 percent said economic and cultural exchanges with the islands should be promoted regardless of the status of the issue, while 45.1 percent said the sovereignty question should be resolved first.

Tokyo bases its territorial claim on an 1855 treaty with Moscow, while Russia maintains the islands are part of the Kuril archipelago which is recognized as Russian territory. The ongoing dispute prevents the two countries from concluding a formal peace treaty and keeps Tokyo from extending full-scale economic assistance to Moscow.

Romanian 'Expert' Gives Advice on Yeltsin

OW0403142493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1344 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan and the West should not attach "exclusive" importance to embattled Russian President Boris Yeltsin as the sole leader of reforms, a Romanian foreign policy expert said Thursday.

Several years ago industrialized nations made a mistake by equating reform in Russia with one man, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, said Ioan Mircea Pascu, a former foreign policy adviser to President Ion Iliescu. "The West seems to have become obsessed with Yeltsin, and while Yeltsin means a lot, he is not everything.

"Now Yeltsin has become as important as Gorbachev used to be two to three years ago, and this is another mistake," Pascu said in an interview with KYODO News Service. Instead, he said Japan and Western governments should be supporting a broad range pro-reform forces in Russia, including parliament.

Yeltsin, whose authority is being challenged by hardliners, won support from Washington last week when the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton announced it would arrange an April 4 summit. Pascu said the Japanese Government and academics have a "more balanced view" of Russia than Western nations, which appear to expect Moscow to listen to advice about managing its affairs.

Pascu, here as a research fellow since October, said Washington seems to be overly confident that a "quick fix" solution will help Moscow escape from its myriad of economic and political problems. This view does not take into sufficient account Russian "pride" and its "big power mentality," said Pascu, dean of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies in Bucharest.

Russia cannot be changed into a completely responsible and accountable power, and on this score Japan is "more pessimistic and therefore closer to reality," he said. But he said it would be "self-damaging" of Tokyo not to be more forthcoming with economic aid for Moscow because an unstable Russia threatens the security and prosperity of the industrialized world.

Firms To Offer Taiwan Advanced Technologies

OW0803145193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1406 GMT 8 Mar 93

[By Wang Huo-sheng]

[Text] Taipei, March 8 KYODO—Five major Japanese companies will take part in a major commercial exhibition in Taipei later this month to offer 31 advanced technologies for transfer to Taiwan companies, according to Lee Sheng-chia, secretary general of the Sino-Japan Business Council.

Lee confirmed a report in Monday's vernacular COMMERCIAL TIMES that officials of Mitsubishi Electric Corp., NKK Corp., Kawasaki Steel Corp., Daiwa Research Institute and Nomura Research Institute will hold a technology fair in the Taipei International Convention Center on March 30-April 1.

Lee, who is also the director of a task force on Taiwan-Japan trade within the China External Trade Development Council (CETDC), told KYODO News Service on Monday that CETDC will select 125 Taiwan manufacturers to meet with representatives of the Japanese companies to negotiate possible technology transfer contracts.

Lee said the conference grew out of a meeting in mid-February in Tokyo under the auspices of the Sino-Japanese business group between Chiang Ping-kun, then Taipei's political vice minister of economic affairs, Koo Chen-fu, chairman of the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), and Yoshiro Mori, Japan's minister of international trade and industry.

Lee said Chiang, now minister of economic affairs, and Koo told Mori that the most critical problem in alleviating Taiwan's massive trade deficit with Japan was promoting technology transfer from Japan to Taiwan's components industries. Lee said Japanese manufacturers should look to develop Taiwan as a "base for sourcing key components. This will do them no harm," he said.

Lee said that previously, both Taiwan and Japanese officials "talked a lot about technology transfer, but not much happened. Taiwan companies weren't ready mentally for technology transfer either," Lee said. "Technology costs a lot of money to buy and then to invest in R and D to adapt and update it."

But Lee said Taiwan firms "are finally realizing that they can't have a free lunch and need to make investments if Taiwan's industrial structure is really to upgrade. Otherwise, we'll never be able to reduce the huge trade gap with Japan," which reached 12.9 billion U.S. dollars in 1992.

"The government has all the incentives needed to facilitate this process. Now it's up to the private sector," Lee said.

Lee acknowledged that concern over inadequate protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) had been a factor in the reluctance of Japanese makers to transfer technology to Taiwan. But he emphasized that Taipei is determined to effectively enforce its IPR legislation. "We must protect intellectual property rights if Taiwan is to become a modern country," he said.

Lee added, "how many of these projects can be realized depends on the efforts of both sides. Besides agreement on the terms, both sides will need patience and a long-term commitment."

Yang Shih-chien, vice minister for economic affairs, told KYODO News Service that a number of the 31 items were on the list of 66 high technology components that Taipei proposed to Tokyo last year for production in

Taiwan. Instead of importing these components from Japan, Taipei hopes to produce these key components locally within five years, and perhaps begin shipping some to Japan, according to yang.

Yang said that of the 66 items on the list, four have entered the production stage in Taiwan, over 20 are in the stage of product development, and over 30 are in the stage of technical development.

Group Links 4 Mar Attack With Troop Dispatch

OW0603135193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1347 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—An extreme leftist group claimed responsibility for an attack Thursday on the district headquarters of the Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) in Sapporo in a statement delivered to mass media in Tokyo, police said Saturday. The statement by the Kakurokyo group said they launched the attack to protest the second dispatch of GSDF personnel to Cambodia to replace a contingent already there on a UN peacekeeping mission, according to police. Police found a metal projectile Friday that had apparently been fired through the roof of the GSDF regional headquarters. Nobody was hurt in the attack.

Tokyo Signs Tax Conventions With Israel, Turkey

OW0803123793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1153 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Japan has signed agreements with Israel and Turkey to avoid double taxation, the government announced Monday. The agreement with Israel is the first governmental accord to be concluded between the two countries.

Under the agreement, corporations and individuals paying taxes in one country will be freed from paying taxes in the other, government officials said. They said the agreements will take effect in January next year after necessary procedures are completed, including ratification by the Diet.

Tokyo To Provide 38-Billion-Yen Loan to Iran

OW0603085393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—Japan will soon resume providing aid to Iran with a 38 billion yen untied loan to finance a hydroelectric power project, government sources said Saturday. It will be the first Japanese loan to Iran since fiscal 1975 when Japan suspended aid to the country in the wake of the Islamic revolution and the Iran-Iraq War.

The sources said Japan hopes to exchange official notes of agreement by the end of May before the presidential election in Iran.

Japan has already submitted to Iran details of the agreement, including the term of repayment and interest rate, the sources said. They said the loan will be repayable in 25 or 30 years at an annual interest rate of 3.0 percent.

The fund will be used to purchase equipment necessary for the power project on the Karun River in southern Iran, they said.

Japan notified Iran of its plan to resume aid to the country in May 1991 when then Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama visited Tehran. The United States has endorsed Japan's plan as conducive to the economic stability in Iran, the sources said.

Lower House Committee Approves FY93 Budget

OW0603064793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0642 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—The House of Representatives Budget Committee passed the fiscal 1993 state budget on Saturday, promptly referring it for a vote in the house's plenary session later in the day. Members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) voted for the 72.35 trillion yen budget in a voting session of the 50-member committee. The LDP has a stable majority both in the committee and in the full house.

The budget is expected to pass through the 512-seat lower house later in the day and immediately be sent to the 252-seat House of Councillors for further deliberations, expected to begin early next week. The lower house's approval of the budget will enable the government to avoid writing a stopgap budget for the first time in seven years, government officials said.

The budget, which covers government spending in the next fiscal year beginning April 1, will become law by April 4, the officials said. Under constitutional rules, a budget bill becomes law 30 days after passage through the lower house without the endorsement of the upper house, which is currently controlled by opposition parties.

The budget committee returned to normal business on Friday, one day after the LDP agreed to consider an income tax cut demanded by opposition parties. But the LDP did not indicate what size the tax cut might be.

Japan's largest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party [of Japan], and two centrist parties—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP)—had demanded a 4.26 trillion yen tax reduction.

Kanemaru Arrested for Alleged Tax Evasion

OW0603125093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1245 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—Public prosecutors Saturday arrested former Liberal Democratic Party Vice President Shin Kanemaru and his former secretary Masahisa Haibara for alleged tax evasion. Officials of the Tokyo public prosecutors office said they suspect the former kingmaker of the ruling party failed to pay hundreds of millions of yen worth of income taxes in fiscal 1987 and fiscal 1989 in violation of the income tax law.

Prosecutors said they also raided more than 10 locations, including Kanemaru's homes and offices in Tokyo and Kofu, Yamanashi Prefecture, in central Japan.

Kanemaru, 78, stepped down as party vice president last August and resigned his House of Representatives seat last October to take responsibility for his role in a massive money-and-mobster scandal involving a now-defunct trucking company.

Haibara, 47, is also suspected of evading hundreds of millions of yen worth of tax payments over a five-year period from fiscal 1987 to fiscal 1991.

Although Kanemaru admitted he failed to report 500 million yen in political donations he received from Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin trucking company, prosecutors only summarily prosecuted him and did not seek a formal trial session last September. The summary prosecution process resulted in Kanemaru paying a 200,000 yen fine under the Political Funds Control Law.

Prosecutors, however, continued investigations into possible income tax law violations in connection with the illegal donations.

Allegedly Colluded With Haibara

OW0603143293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1419 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—Prosecutors arrested former political powerbroker Shin Kanemaru and his former secretary Masahisa Haibara on suspected tax evasion Saturday evening. Investigators from the Tokyo public prosecutors office and the Tokyo regional taxation bureau raided more than 10 places including Kanemaru's residences and offices in Tokyo and Kofu, Yamanashi Prefecture, officials said.

Kanemaru, former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), allegedly colluded with Haibara to avoid paying hundreds of millions of yen in taxes in fiscal 1987 and fiscal 1989 in violation of the income tax law.

The 78-year-old Kanemaru is reputed to have used his influence to put at least two prime ministers into power, including current Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. He resigned his Diet seat last October to take responsibility for illegally receiving 500 million yen in political contributions from a scandal-tainted trucking company.

He paid a 200,000 yen fine last September for accepting the cash from the now-defunct Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. in violation of the Political Funds Control Law, which sets a 1.5 million yen limit on the amount of political funds a politician can accept from a single source in a year.

Haibara, 47, is also suspected of evading hundreds of millions of yen worth of tax payments over a five year-period from fiscal 1987, the officials said.

The current allegations do not include Kanemaru's acceptance of the 500 million yen donation from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin In 1990, the officials said. Prosecutors said they suspect that Kanemaru distributed the money to about 60 LDP politicians but they could not specify how the money was used.

Kanemaru and Haibara were summoned to the Tokyo district public prosecutors office on Saturday to undergo questioning. Prosecutors arrested Kanemaru at 6:03 PM and Haibara at 5:24 PM for fear that they would destroy evidence, the officials said. It is not immediately known if the two admitted to the tax evasion allegations.

Miyazawa said Saturday Kanemaru's arrest on suspicion of violating the income tax law is "extremely regrettable." "I have confidence that prosecution and regional taxation authorities will deal strictly with the matter in accordance with the law," the prime minister said.

Opposition party leaders also commented on the arrests of Kanemaru and Haibara, and renewed their pledge to get to the bottom of the political corruption problem during the current ordinary session of the Diet.

Sadao Yamahana, chairman of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party, said, "it is now clear that we cannot stop our efforts to unravel the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal."

Koshiro Ishida, chairman of the No. 2 opposition Komeito, predicted Kanemaru's arrest will have various ramifications.

Takashi Yonezawa, secretary general of the Democratic Socialist Party, said Saturday's events will "deepen the public distrust of politics and throw the political situation into further disorder."

Questioned by Public Prosecutors

OW0703043293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0415 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—Tokyo district public prosecutors on Sunday started questioning former ruling party kingmaker Shin Kanemaru and his former secretary about their alleged tax evasions amounting to several hundreds of millions of yen. The 78-year-old Kanemaru and Masahisa Haibara, 49, were arrested Saturday evening on suspicion of evading income taxes in connection with transactions of discount bank debentures.

Kanemaru, former vice president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is reportedly suspected of evading as much as 800 million yen in taxes for 1987 and 1989. In 1991, Kanemaru, a key figure of what was then the largest faction within the LDP, played a pivotal role in helping Kiichi Miyazawa become prime minister.

Haibara is also accused of violating the income tax law by failing to report some 400 million yen in taxes from 1987 to 1991. Both men allegedly used the money to buy discount bank debentures, according to sources close to the case.

Under questioning, Kanemaru is said to have acknowledged his failure to pay a proper amount of income tax.

Both Kanemaru and Haibara were later taken to the Tokyo detention center, where prosecutors opened full-fledged questioning Sunday morning of the two men—behind-the-scenes influential players in Japanese politics until Kanemaru's fall from power. The prosecutors are expected to indict them by March 14, the deadline for prosecuting their alleged income tax evasions for 1987.

This latest scandal surfaced shortly after the House of Representatives passed a 72.35 trillion yen fiscal 1993 budget program. The passage was assured after Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's government, under pressure from the opposition, agreed to consider income tax reduction to spur the sagging economy.

The tax evasion case is separate from the scandal which drove Kanemaru from politics last October after he acknowledged accepting 500 million yen in illegal contributions from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin parcel delivery firm. He was fined 200,000 yen in the Sagawa Kyubin scandal, causing a public outcry over what many Japanese thought was too lenient a penalty.

To Receive No Special Treatment

OW0703085093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0826 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—Arrested former political kingpin Shin Kanemaru is unlikely to get special treatment in the Tokyo Detention House, well-placed sources said Sunday. Politicians are treated like other detainees and Kanemaru, 78, disgraced former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, is no exception, the sources said.

Kanemaru is being held in a solitary cell as small as a three-mat room in the facility in Kosuge, Tokyo.

Kanemaru and his former political secretary, Masahisa Haibara, were arrested Saturday on suspicion of evading income taxes in connection with transactions of discount bank debentures.

The sources said that prosecutors took into account Kanemaru's frail health. He underwent eye surgery last November. Doctors gave Kanemaru a medical checkup at the Tokyo District Prosecutors Office and at the Tokyo Detention House, they said.

They said that when Fumio Abe, former director general of the Hokkaido development agency, was arrested in January 1992 prosecutors waited for doctors to give their okay before questioning him each day. Abe, who was arrested on suspicion of accepting bribes from scandal-tainted Kyowa Corp., spent 24 days in the detention house.

Kanemaru reportedly is suspected of evading as much as 800 million yen in taxes from 1987 to 1989. He gave up his Diet seat last October after acknowledging he had received 500 million yen in illegal donations from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin parcel delivery firm.

He paid a 200,000 yen fine for violating the Political Funds Control Law, which prohibits politicians from receiving more than 1.5 million yen from an individual or a corporation a year.

'Basically' Admits Tax Evasion

OW0703102293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—Former ruling party kingmaker Shin Kanemaru and an ex-aide have basically admitted allegations that they evaded income taxes amounting to several hundred million yen, well-placed sources said Sunday. Kanemaru, 78, reportedly told prosecutors he is "sorry" when he was arrested Saturday night, the sources said.

Prosecutors arrested Kanemaru and his former secretary, Masahisa Haibara, 49, on suspicion of evading income taxes in connection with transactions of discount bank debentures.

Kanemaru, former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is suspected of failing to declare about 800 million yen in income for 1987 and 1989 and thus evading 400 million yen in income tax, the sources said.

Haibara is accused of violating the income tax law by evading some 200 million yen in income tax from 1987 to 1991.

Both men allegedly used the money to buy discount bank debentures, the sources said.

Kanemaru paid 10.44 million yen in income tax for 1987. Each May the National Tax Administration Agency publishes the names of people who paid 10 million yen or more in income tax. Kanemaru wasn't listed in 1989 because his tax declaration was under 10 million yen. He paid 10.03 million yen in income tax for 1990 and 10.34 million yen for 1991.

Investigators from the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office and Tokyo regional taxation bureau also raided companies owned by Kanemaru's sons in an effort to trace the flow of Kanemaru's money, the sources said. They raided a building rental company in Tokyo owned by Kanemaru's second son and secretary, Shingo, 48, and a real estate agency in Kofu, Yamanashi Prefecture, managed by his 50-year-old eldest son, they said. The Tokyo prosecutors questioned Shingo, they said.

In 1991, Kanemaru, a key figure of what was then the largest faction within the LDP, played a pivotal role in helping Kiichi Miyazawa become prime minister.

The prosecutors are expected to indict Kanemaru and Haibara by March 14, the deadline for prosecuting their alleged income tax evasions for 1987.

The tax evasion case is separate from the scandal which drove Kanemaru from politics last October after he acknowledged accepting 500 million yen in illegal contributions from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin parcel delivery company. He was fined 200,000 yen, which caused a public outcry because many people thought it was too lenient.

Ozawa, Yamahana React to Arrest

OW0703203993 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 7 Mar 93

[From "NHK News" Program]

[Text] While speaking with reporters this morning about the arrest of former Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Vice President Kanemaru and his secretary, former LDP Secretary-General Ozawa stated: Money goes in and out via individual politicians; this causes the people to suspect that such money flows may be helping politicians accumulate their own assets. Politicians should open up to the public their political funds down to the yen or sen [1/100 yen]. Other strict anticorruption measures should be adopted and thoroughly applied. Then the current electoral system should be changed.

Meanwhile, speaking at a national meeting of secretaries-general from prefectural chapters of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], Chairman Yamahana stated:

[Begin Yamahana recording] In addition to money from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Company, secret or illegal political funds are boundlessly flowing to leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. This is a serious problem. The party, within and outside both houses of the legislature, will persist in illuminating suspicions about the Tokyo Sagawa scandal as well as the issue concerning the new scandal involving Kanemaru. We are resolved not only to pursue the scandal within the House of Councillors, but also to bring about the establishment in the House of Representatives of a special committee on the scandal. In addition, we are also determined to continue calling on former Prime Minister Takeshita to resign as a Diet member, and those concerned with the scandal to take responsibility and make efforts to pursue the cause of these suspicions. [end recording]

In this way, SDPJ Chairman Yamahana stressed his intention to make efforts to illuminate suspicions about the Tokyo Sagawa scandal and to call on concerned persons to take responsibility.

Further 10-Day Detention Authorized

OW0803085993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0845 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Former ruling party don Shin Kanemaru and his former secretary Masahisa Haibara will be detained for 10 more days for questioning on suspicion of income tax evasion, prosecutors said Monday. A Tokyo district court judge accepted the prosecution's request to detain Kanemaru and Haibara until March 18 at the Tokyo Detention House, the prosecutors said.

The prosecution arrested Kanemaru on Saturday for allegedly evading taxes on his income in 1987 and 1989. Haibara, who was arrested the same day, is suspected of evading tax on his income between 1987 and 1991.

Prosecution sources said Kanemaru failed to declare about 800 million yen in income in the two years and evaded about 400 million yen of income tax. Haibara allegedly evaded about 200 million yen on an undeclared income of 400 million yen during the five years.

The sources said Kanemaru, 78, and Haibara, 49, used the undeclared income to buy discount bank debentures issued by Nippon Credit Bank, one of the country's three long-term credit banks.

Probe of Finances Disclosed

OW0803145893 Tokyo KYODO in English at 1326 GMT 8 March 1993

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—The balance of discount bank debentures held by former ruling party don Shin Kanemaru and his former aide, both under arrest for alleged tax evasion, amounts to 2.8 billion yen, sources close to the prosecution said Monday. The disclosure came as the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office questions the former Liberal Democratic Party vice president and his former chief secretary Masahisa Haibara on suspicion of evading 600 million yen in income tax.

Prosecutors suspect Kanemaru and Haibara of evading 400 million yen in income tax by failing to declare 800 million yen in income for 1987 and 1989. Haibara also was suspected of failing to report an income of about 400 million yen and thus evading 200 million yen for a five-year period starting in 1987.

Kanemaru, 78, entrusted Haibara, 49, with managing bank debentures with a one-year maturity, the sources said.

Haibara used to seek and obtain consent from Kanemaru each time he bought new debentures or replaced those whose one-year maturity expired with new ones, the sources said. They said Haibara's practice of obtaining Kanemaru's consent for each transaction substantiates prosecutors' allegations the pair conspired to evade taxes on their income, which they allegedly funneled into debenture purchases.

Prosecutors seized 1.2 billion yen worth of "Warishin" discount debentures issued by Nippon Credit Bank when they searched Kanemaru's political office in a condominium in Tokyo's Nagatacho, the sources said. On top of the 1.2 billion yen worth of bank debentures, the pair have another 1.6 billion yen in debentures issued by the same bank, the sources said.

A discount debenture, free from depreciation of its value, is sold to investors at a price lower than its face value. When it matures after one year, the bond is redeemed at face value, giving the investor a handsome profit. Once the debenture matures, an investor is left with two options—to redeem the debentures at a profit or replace the matured ones with new ones.

On instructions from Kanemaru, Haibara used to purchase the debentures, replace the matured ones with new ones or increase the balance of debentures by acquiring new ones with profits from matured debentures, the sources said. Discount debentures are not required to be registered by name.

Kanemaru was aware he was personally profiting from the transactions by failing to report the possession of the debentures to the tax authorities, the sources said. They said prosecutors are stepping up investigative efforts to determine from whom Kanemaru obtained the huge funds to buy the debentures.

The Tokyo District Court granted a prosecutors' request submitted earlier in the day to detain Kanemaru and Haibara for 10 days for questioning. Kanemaru and Haibara will stay until March 17 at a detention house in Tokyo's Kosuge, officials said.

The sources said the prosecutors plan to file an indictment against Kanemaru by March 13 before the five-year statute of limitations for tax evasion cases runs out.

Kanemaru filed tax returns for his 1987 income March 14, 1988.

Investigators confiscated 1 billion yen worth of "wariko" discount bank debentures issued by the Industrial Bank of Japan when they raided the home of Kanemaru in Moto-Azabu on Saturday, the sources said.

Diet Business Left 'Paralyzed'

OW0803133393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1306 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Parliamentary business was paralyzed Monday as opposition parties launched fresh attacks against the ruling party over the arrest at the weekend of disgraced political powerbroker Shin Kanemaru, Diet sources said. However, the ruling and opposition parties eventually agreed to discuss the fiscal 1993 budget bill in the House of Councillors budget committee on Tuesday following arbitration by Kaname Endo, chairman of the upper house panel, the sources said.

Endo reportedly proposed that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the opposition camp continue discussing the latter's demand for Kanemaru and other figures to appear before the Diet to give sworn testimony on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal while debating the budget bill. As a result, the budgetary debate in the upper house panel will begin at 10 A.M. on Tuesday. A final decision on the Diet testimony issue was postponed to Thursday, the sources said.

Kanemaru, 78, a former LDP vice president, and his ex-secretary, Masahisa Haibara, 49, were arrested Saturday on charges of tax evasion.

The opposition camp urged the LDP to accept their demand that Kanemaru and other figures be summoned to the Diet to testify under oath about their alleged involvement in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal, the sources said.

Prosecutors suspect Kanemaru and Haibara of evading 400 million yen in income tax by failing to declare 800 million yen in income for 1987 and 1989. Haibara also was arrested for allegedly not reporting an income of about 400 million yen and evading 200 million yen tax for a five-year period starting in 1987.

Kanemaru retired from politics in October after he was fined 200,000 yen for his illicit receipt of 500 million yen in political donations from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct express parcel delivery company at the center of the scandal. The current allegations do not include Kanemaru's acceptance of largess from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin in 1990, prosecution officials said.

The 72.35 trillion yen budget bill for fiscal 1993, starting April 1, won approval of the LDP-dominant House of Representatives on Saturday. It will automatically be enacted on April 4 even if it is not passed through the opposition-controlled upper house.

Meanwhile, Rekiji Kobari, chairman of Fukushima Kotsu Co., is likely to be excused from giving Diet testimony on Thursday about his alleged role in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scam. On Monday, Kobari submitted a notice to lower house Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi saying poor health prevents him from giving sworn Diet testimony, Diet sources said.

In compliance with an opposition request, the lower house decided on Saturday to summon Kobari to testify under oath. Kobari would be the third witness to testify about the scandal in the current Diet session. Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa have appeared before the lower house budget committee as sworn witnesses, but nothing new was revealed.

Directors of the lower house panel will weigh the possibility of having Kobari testify from his hospital bed, the sources said.

Budget Debate Stalled by Arrest

OW0803055493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0409 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Saturday's arrest of former ruling party kingpin Shin Kanemaru has made it unlikely that the ruling and opposition parties will start debating the budget bills in the House of Councillors budget committee on Monday, Diet sources said. Kanemaru, former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, was arrested by prosecutors on suspicion of failing to declare some 800 million yen in income for 1987 and 1989, thus evading tax of 400 million yen.

At a meeting of directors of the upper house budget committee, the opposition parties demanded that Kanemaru and other figures be summoned to the panel to testify under oath about their involvements in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal. The opposition camp is also calling for former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa to appear before the committee.

Representatives of the opposition parties said the series of scandals concerning the now-defunct Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin parcel delivery company has entered the new phase by the arrest of Kanemaru and former his secretary, Masahisa Haibara, by the Tokyo public prosecutors office. Haibara was also arrested Saturday for allegedly not reporting an income of some 400 million yen and evading 200 million yen tax.

Kanemaru resigned from the Diet last October after he was fined 200,000 yen for his illegal receipt of 500 million yen in donations from Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin.

The LDP made no response to the opposition demands.

The 72.35 trillion yen budget bill for fiscal 1993, which cleared the plenary session of the House of Representatives on Saturday, will automatically take effect on April 4 if not approved by the House of Councillors, which is dominated by the opposition parties. The upper house budget committee was scheduled to start a full-fledged debate on the draft budget Monday following its lower house passage on Saturday, which relieved the government of the need to compile a stopgap budget for the first time since 1986.

In a related development, Sadao Yamahana, chairman of the largest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), said Monday he will put top priority on seeking the resignation of Takeshita from the lower house during the current Diet session. Yamahana made the remark in his closing speech at a meeting of secretaries general of the SDP's local chapters across the nation.

Miyazawa Resolves To Pursue Political Reform

OW0603130593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1256 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Saturday political reform will be the next big problem to be tackled in the current Diet session if the fiscal 1993 budget is approved. At a press meeting immediately after the House of Representatives approved the budget Saturday, Miyazawa said he is determined to promote political reforms.

The prime minister said he would like to secure definite plans for sweeping political reforms during the current Diet session through open discussions of each party's draft proposal since the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will draw up its draft by the end of this month.

Miyazawa also said he intends to take timely and effective measures to boost the sluggish economy and he will monitor discussions between ruling and opposition parties about ways to counteract the recession.

The LDP and three main opposition parties resumed the previously stalled budgetary debate after the governing party gave in to an opposition demand for tax cuts.

Kono Reasserts Need for Political Reforms

OW0803055393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0358 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono reasserted the need to introduce political reforms Monday following the arrest of former political kingpin Shin Kanemaru on suspicion of tax evasion.

Expressing "regret" over the arrest of Shin Kanemaru, former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Kono said he expected "increased calls for making transparent, from the citizen's point of view, the problem of politicians and (political) funds." He told a news conference he hopes the Diet will approve political reforms proposed by the LDP "as early as possible."

The LDP last week unveiled outlines of a package of four political reform bills. Two are aimed at tightening controls on political funds and arranging for public subsidies of political parties, and two would revise the electoral system.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa described the arrest of the former LDP strongman, who helped him come to power in late 1991 and then supported him in the early days of his administration, as "extremely regrettable." Asked if he had any further comments for the Japanese people, the premier tersely replied, "no, there is nothing else. It is regrettable, an unfortunate thing."

After learning of Kanemaru's arrest Saturday Miyazawa canceled plans to play golf on Sunday, and stayed at home. Prosecutors accuse Kanemaru of evading taxes amounting to several hundred million yen between 1987 and 1989.

The former power broker resigned as LDP vice president last August and quit the Diet in October after acknowledging involvement in a separate scandal, the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin case. He paid a 200,000 yen fine in September for violating the political funds control law in failing to report a 500 million yen contribution from the parcel delivery company.

Miyazawa and LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama met and agreed that a major task facing politicians is to clearly separate private interests from public matters in the course of their political activities, officials said. The meeting followed the arrest of Kanemaru on suspicion of tax evasion Friday.

Miyazawa indicated that the government and the LDP are not directly concerned, because the allegation involving Kanemaru's personal income tax has nothing to do with politics. Miyazawa and Kajiyama also discussed the need to tighten controls on tax-free political funds, the officials said.

Kajiyama was one of the key members of a once-dominant LDP faction led by Kanemaru until he quit his Diet seat last October.

Watanabe Returns To Work After Hospital Stay

OW0603030093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0255 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe returned to work Saturday after recuperating for 19 days from a cold and overwork. Watanabe told reporters he was virtually recovered, but would commute to work from the Tokyo Women's Medical College Hospital.

Later he went to the Diet building to talk with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and members of the House of Representatives Budget Committee. Watanabe entered hospital on February 15, the day after he returned from an official trip to the United States.

Proposed Marine Waste Dumping Rules Viewed

OW0803124593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1046 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—The secretariat of an international convention limiting marine dumping of waste has asked Japan to respond by April 1 to suggested new rules totally banning industrial waste disposal at sea, environment agency sources said Monday.

The proposal for 13 amendments to the convention would place severe restrictions on Japanese industry which is the largest marine dumper of industrial waste in the world, the sources said. The amendments, which are a response to requests from North European countries experiencing heavy pollution in the Atlantic Ocean and Baltic Sea, would necessitate a new strategy for the domestic disposal of industrial waste and could lead to a restructuring of the production cycle.

Japan ratified the convention on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping of waste and other matter, also known as the London Convention, in 1980 after the convention came into effect in 1975. In September last year, the convention had 70 signatory countries. Signatory countries in 1990 adopted a resolution agreeing to an in-principle ban on marine dumping by 1995. But in its present form, it amounts to little more than an unenforceable gentleman's agreement.

The London-based secretariat's proposed amendments would place a total ban on the disposal of industrial and radioactive waste at sea. They would also oblige signatory countries to refrain from exporting their waste to nonsignatory countries for ultimate disposal at sea and would ban the burning of waste at sea.

The amendments also represent a strengthening of provisions covering the reporting of measures taken by signatory countries and their compliance with the terms of the convention. The amendments would also cover inland bodies of water currently excluded from the convention.

After it assesses responses from signatory countries, the secretariat proposes to hold a special preparatory meeting of the countries in July and present a final version of the amendments to a full meeting in November.

Current legislation in Japan permits the disposal of certain wastes including waste acids, alkalines and sludge from aluminum refining, if the wastes do not contain harmful organic substances such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). The Japanese industry dumps about 4.5 million tons of industrial waste every year in the Pacific Ocean and the Japan Sea at depths of more than 1,000 meters in specified zones more than 90 kilometers from the shore.

North Korea

Kim Chong-il Orders Army Mobilization

SK0803084993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] An order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [Kim Chong-il] No. 0034, 8 March 1993, Pyongyang.

On declaring a semi-state of war [chun chonsi sangtae] to the entire country, all the people, and the entire Army:

Despite the strong protest and denunciation of all the Korean people and the world's revolutionary people who love peace and oppose war, the U.S. imperialists and the

South Korean puppet clique are conducting the adventurous Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise conducted by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets is thoroughly aggressive in its contents and nature, and is a preliminary war and test nuclear war exercise aimed at waging a surprise preemptive strike on the northern half of our Republic. The Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise is conducted at a time when the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation, and exchange and the joint declaration on denuclearization for eliminating the danger of nuclear war have been adopted and effectuated on the Korean peninsula. This is an extremely dangerous and grave military provocation which cannot be justified by anything.

Today the U.S. imperialists are on a large scale bringing new types of fighters and ships loaded with nuclear weapons and various nuclear strike means into the Korean peninsula and its surrounding seas, and are conducting gun powder-reeking war exercises by mobilizing rapid response deployment forces and 200,000-odd aggressive troops from bases in the U.S. mainland and Asia-Pacific areas including Guam, Hawaii and Japan.

Since the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique resumed the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise, a grave touch- and-go situation in which a war may break out at any moment has been created in our country.

All fellow countrymen in the North, the South, and overseas, who are ardently aspiring to the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland, cannot repress surging hatred and indignation against the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique for again staging the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise defying the sincere efforts of our party and the government of our Republic to ease tension in the nation, to ensure peace and to denuclearize the Korean peninsula. They are sternly denouncing it as an anti-peace and anti-reunification crime which can never be tolerated.

The U.S. imperialists are aiming at a chance for a new war provocation while directing a spearhead of aggression at the northern half of the Republic by mobilizing all modern war means. However, they are making a grave misjudgment [simhi osanhada].

Even though the enemies are staging the Team Spirit joint military exercise by mobilizing hundreds of thousands of troops and mass lethal weapons, the Korean people are not the people who are scared by this and our Army is not the army which will retreat in fear of war.

There are heroic Korean people and the one-a-match-for-100 People's Army which repelled the 1 million Kanto army troops of the Japanese imperialists amid fierce storm and wind in Paektu and which smashed the armies of the 15 follower-states led by the U.S. imperialists amid gun smoke during the Fatherland Liberation War. There is the might of single-hearted unity between the leader, the party, and the masses and an indomitable might attained through blood ties between the Army and the people.

Our People's Army has been fostered as ever-victorious revolutionary armed forces that possess all modern offensive and defensive means, and all the people are armed and the whole nation has been fortified. Thus, they are fully prepared to wipe out any aggressor at a single stroke.

Our people who treasure national independence and peace in the country do not want war. However, our people will not beg for peace even at the expense of their dignity.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets provoke a new war, our people and the People's Army will fight for the party and the leader and the socialism of our own style, which they won with blood, to the end and, thus, deal a crushing blow to the aggressors and again display heroic Korea's dignity and honor.

The enemy must clearly know that it cannot touch even an inch of land or a single plant of our Republic at random.

In response to the grave situation which is being promoted in our country because of the new war provocation maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, as a self-defensive measure to defend the safety of our Republic and people, I release the following order:

1. The entire country, all the people, and the entire Army shall enter into a semi state of war from 9 March 1993.

2. The units of the Army, Navy, and Air Force of the KPA and all the members of the Korean People's Security Forces, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards, and the Young Red Guards shall acutely watch every move of the enemy with high revolutionary vigilance and assume a complete combat mobilization posture [manbanui chontu tongwon taese] so that they can annihilate the enemy at a blow if it assaults them at any time.

3. All the people shall strongly arm themselves with our party's chuche-oriented view on war and score great upsurges in socialist economic construction while holding hammers and sickles in one hand and guns in the other.

[Signed] KPA Supreme Commander Kim Chong-il

Dailies: CIA Director's Remarks 'Nonsensical'

SK0603061993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0537 GMT 6 Mar 93

["Papers Denounce False Statements of U.S. Authorities Against DPRK"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 6 (KCNA)—Papers here today flail away at the U.S. imperialists getting overheated in their smear campaign against the DPRK.

Commenting on the recent nonsensical remarks of the director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Woolsey at a congressional hearing that the DPRK has produced plutonium for nuclear weapons and is "hiding" it, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

This is a rigmarole which can be uttered only by those who are accustomed to distorting and fabricating cases and reversing black and white and a premeditated provocation to put pressure on the DPRK.

We have made it clear that we have no nuclear weapons nor have we the intention, capacity and need to manufacture them.

The United States is now directing the sharp edge of the anti-socialist campaign to our country which is confidently advancing along the road of socialism, adhering to the revolutionary principle, in an attempt to stifle the Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses with strength.

The fact that the "special inspection" racket against the DPRK coincides with the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises tells that this clamor is being raised according to a meticulous script under a masterful baton. The United States intends to disarm us and realise its ambition for northward invasion by spying on our ordinary military bases through the "special inspection."

If the U.S. authorities attempt to subdue us with strength, resorting to fabrications, it will be a grave mistake.

An analyst of MINJU CHOSON says:

The United States which is presenting a nuclear threat is accusing our republic of "nuclear development" and branding it as "a country that causes concern". It is the height of folly.

The United States must stop the tricky row over the nuclear problem and the provocative anti-DPRK campaign at once and act with discretion.

NODONG SINMUN Denounces Remarks

SK0603010593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0026 GMT 6 Mar 93

[NODONG SINMUN 6 March commentary: "Insidious Intention"]

[Text] [James] Woolsey, director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency [CIA], appearing in a hearing at Congress recently, has made absurd remarks stating that we have produced plutonium for the development of nuclear weapons and are concealing it.

His remarks are indeed groundless and ridiculous utterances that can be made only by those who are proficient in distorting truth and overturning black and white.

Such absurd remarks are a preplanned provocative maneuver intended to put pressure on us with nuclear inspection commotions.

As we have already clearly manifested, we have no nuclear weapons nor do we have the will, ability, or need to make them. Our position has been clarified in the course of inspections carried out according to the Nuclear Safeguards Accord.

Our Republic's nuclear plan to use nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes has evoked greater sympathy among social circles in the world.

Nevertheless, the United States is adhering to all kinds of cunning tactics in a bid to arouse nuclear suspicions of us.

By offering false intelligence [howi chongbo] on so-called suspected nuclear materials to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], the United States made the IAEA wage a commotion concerning special inspection of our ordinary military bases which have nothing to do with nuclear weapons. This is a part of its cunning tactics.

Today the United States, directing a spearhead of anti-socialist maneuvers at our country which is confidently advancing along the road of socialism by maintaining revolutionary principle, is scheming to crush popular mass-centered socialism of our own style by means of strength.

For this, the United States is intensifying the military threat, together with a political and ideological offensive.

By resuming the Team Spirit joint military exercise which was suspended last year, the United States is bringing enormous armed forces and operational equipment into South Korea. It is frantically waging an aerial war exercise every day.

It is no accident that commotions such as special inspection of us are being waged timed to coincide with the northward aggressive war exercise. This illustrates that special inspection commotions are a part of the United States' northward aggressive war maneuvers. They are being staged according to a carefully preplanned scenario and drama.

Through special inspections, the United States is attempting to spy on our ordinary military bases and to disarm us, thus scheming to realize its ambition for northward aggression.

Facts show that the United States' counter-Republic maneuvers are reaching a more grave stage with each passing day.

Today tensions and confrontation have been aggravated on the Korean peninsula. This is entirely due to the United States' anachronistic policy toward Korea.

If the U.S. authorities try to threaten us with force while repeatedly presenting falsehood and fabrications, then this will be a seriously failed policy [silchaek].

No matter how beautifully one may attempt to embellish falsehood, it cannot be truth. The United States must immediately stop its shameless commotions to slander our just, peaceful nuclear policy and must discard the policy of strength against us.

KCNA Reports Joint U.S.-ROK Military Exercises

'Air War' Exercises Held 4 Mar

SK0603064993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0531 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 6 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists on March 4 staged an air war exercise aimed at invading the North in the skies above Oeyon Islet, Kongju, Phyongchang and Tanyang of South Korea, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the exercise staged within the framework of the criminal "Team Spirit 93" war gamble were formations of Japan-and Pacific-based nuclear-capable fighter bombers, assault planes and pursuit-assault planes and war planes of different types belonging to the U.S. air force present in South Korea and the puppet air force, more than 350 in all.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists sent from a base in Okinawa, Japan, a "RC-135" strategic reconnaissance plane to the sky above South Korea for a high-altitude photographing and electronic espionage on the whole areas of the northern half of Korea.

And a "RV-1" and "RC-12" army tactical reconnaissance planes committed an espionage on the depth and inland of DPRK, making a shuttle flight from east to west along the areas adjacent to the Military Demarcation Line.

In other development, the U.S. imperialists have massively deployed their troops and military equipment in the operational zones after transporting them from bases in their mainland and the Pacific region.

Deployment of U.S. Troops Noted

SK0703085493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807 GMT 7 Mar 93

["Massive Airlifts of Troops and War Materiel Into South Korea"—KCNA headline"]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 7 (KCNA)—U.S. ground, naval and air forces several thousands strong were airlifted into operational zones of South Korea from their bases in the mainland and the Pacific on March 5 and put into combat readiness, according to military sources.

On the same day, Blue Ridge, a 18,372 ton warship belonging to the U.S. Seventh Fleet expected to command an adventurous landing operation, the culmination of the "Team Spirit 93" war exercises, entered a South Korean port.

The U.S. imperialists that day brought nuclear-capable F-15s of the Fifth Air Force based in Kadena, Okinawa of Japan, into their air bases in South Korea for the "Team Spirit 93."

In separate action, they sent more than 300 warplanes of different types including pursuit-assault planes and VTOL assault planes to the skies above Chongju, Suwon, Hoengsong and Yechon in South Korea to stage a joint air war game.

NODONG SINMUN on ROK 'Collusion'

SK0703091593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0834 GMT 7 Mar 93

["Collusion With Outside Forces Is Wicked Flunkeyist Treachery"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 7 (KCNA)—The question of Korean reunification is that of establishing national sovereignty throughout the country and achieving national reconciliation and unity, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article. What is important in adhering to the principle of national independence at the moment is to rely on the independent forces of the nation, not depending upon the outside forces, it notes, and continues: In particular, one should refrain from such practices as paying greater attention to a collusion with outside forces than to a unity with fellow countrymen. If any of the two sides relies on the strength of outside forces and allows their interference under the present situation where the country is divided into the North and the South it is poised for confrontation, not for achieving its reunification through reconciliation and unity. The South Korean authorities have read the faces of their U.S. master, while having dialogues with their compatriots. And then the United States was displeased with the good agreements they signed with their fellow countrymen they chose to break even the promise made with the fellow brothers and dishonour the commitment made before the nation. As the American president advised them to "shelve" the implementation of the North-South agreement as soon as it was adopted, they announced that they would "shelve its implementation", putting up "nuclear problem" as a "precondition for the normalization of the North-South relations." They have staged large-scale war manoeuvres with the outside forces, increasing tensions, and deliberately created obstacles in the way of the implementation of the agreement, breaking up all North-South dialogues. They announced the plan to resume the "Team Spirit" joint war exercises with the U.S. imperialists defying our repeated warnings and are now forcing them, thus freezing the North-South dialogue. The South Korean rulers are now committing indelible treacheries by resuming "Team Spirit" with the United States because it is aimed at killing fellow countrymen with the help of outside forces and achieving their dastardly aim in return for putting the whole of Korea under its colonial domination.

MINJU CHOSON Criticizes U.S. Pressure on Libya

SK0703092593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0828 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 7 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today, commenting on the propaganda of the United States that Libya is stepping up a series of projects to produce banned chemical weapons, says that it is an intolerable violation of other country's sovereignty to put pressure on and threaten it with groundless rumors that it produces chemical weapons.

Libya made public statements and newspaper commentaries in which it clarified that the U.S. propaganda linking Libya with the production of chemical weapons is an intrigue to mislead the world public and demanded its immediate stop, the news analyst notes, and goes on:

It is not accidental in view of the past U.S. anti-Libyan campaign that Libya dismisses propaganda about the production of chemical weapons as a new plot.

The United States puts pressure on Libya with outcries over the production of chemical weapons but keeps mum about the production of nuclear weapons in israel. This can not be tolerated as it means applying a double standard as regards international legality.

Chemical weapons must be totally abolished along with nuclear weapons and their production be checked.

Trade Union Urges South To End 'Fascist Policy'

SK0503045493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 5 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea [GFTUK] in a statement on March 4 demanded the South Korean authorities to abolish the fascist policy. It sharply denounces the "total wage system" forced upon the South Korean workers as an anti-popular act of robbery to fill the purses of foreign monopolies and comprador capitalists and drive the working people holding an overwhelming majority of the population to greater misery.

Elaborating on the struggle of the South Korean workers for a higher pay, the statement continues:

The South Korean workers live in dire poverty on starvation wages less than one third of the minimum cost of living while being forced to the longest working hours and greatest labor intensity under the worst work conditions in the world.

The South Korean authorities restricted wage increase and kept the wages at a low standard by law by introducing the "total wage system" last year.

They argue that the economic bankruptcy has resulted from "wage hike" for the workers. But it is a sophism to justify their anti-popular low wage policy.

It is nonsensical to claim that the negligible wages of the workers are a "burden" to the economy, while squandering annually a fabulous amount of funds in military expenditure, the upkeep of the fascist ruling machine and maintenance of the U.S. Forces and whisking off hundreds of billions of won as political fund and in illegal fortune-piling.

The catastrophic crisis of the South Korean economy today is an inevitable consequence brought by the colonial economy dependent on foreign forces and the anti-national, anti-popular fascist rule.

If "civilian politics" is to be truly pursued in South Korea, such fascist wage policy as the "total wage system" invented by the "Sixth Republic" to exploit and fleece the working masses must be renounced and a policy be shaped to guarantee the interests of the masses and improve their life.

The statement expresses the belief that the struggle of the South Korean workers for the right to live and for democracy will surely end in victory.

MINJU CHOSON: South's Armament Must Be Stopped

SK0603105393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 6 Mar 93

["Nuclear Armament of South Korea Must Be Checked"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 6 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today comes out with a commentary denouncing the South Korean authorities for stepping up the development of nuclear weapons.

Recalling that the Japanese MAINICHI SHIMBUN some time ago disclosed again that South Korea had nearly acquired the capacity to develop nuclear weapons by 1979, the analyst says:

South Korea began developing nuclear weapons nearly 30 years ago. The South Korean development of nuclear weapons which was made its policy and carried into practice toward the end of the 1960s has been rapidly promoted by the successive military fascist "regimes" and it has reached a very dangerous stage today.

South Korea could extract 1 ton and 300 kg of plutonium in 1991 through its nuclear power generating facilities. It has not only produced no small amount of highly enriched uranium and plutonium for the manufacture of nuclear bombs but also stored them by smuggling them from a third country.

The South Korean authorities are making accessory parts and equipment for the manufacture of nuclear bombs separately at Changwon Machine Co. Ltd., the Korea Chemistry Co. Ltd, the nuclear fuel processing factory and other enterprises.

It is shameless of them to act the shock brigade in the campaign for a "special inspection" launched by the imperialists under the pretext of fictitious "suspicion of nuclear development" against the North, while themselves getting overheated in the development of nuclear weapons.

The South Korean authorities must apologize for the anti-national and anti-human crimes in developing nuclear weapons and stop them at once. And they must choose to implement the joint declaration on denuclearisation.

Ministry Opposes Japanese Constitution Revision

SK0803105993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 8 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry today answered a question put by KCNA on the recent undisguised move of Japanese political circles to revise Japan's postwar constitution.

The spokesman recalls that the Liberal Democratic Party recently decided to run a constitution research council directly under its president and to arrange the points of the constitution liable to examination by the end of the current Diet session and request the opposition to debate it when conclusions are drawn. Noting that this decision came recently when heated debates are under way within the Japanese political circles over the "correlations between international contribution and the present Japanese constitution," the spokesman said:

"Japan is intending to revise the provisions of the postwar constitution on renouncing war and prohibiting the use of force in international disputes including war, without admitting or liquidating its past crimes. This is motivated by its anachronistic way of thinking, its intention to follow in the footsteps of the militarists of the past. Obviously, this reveals its attempt to realize its old dream of the 'Greater East Asia Coprosperity Sphere' through legal troop dispatch overseas.

"This is an insult to the Korean and other Asian nations, victims to the Japanese militarist aggression in the past, and it poses a big threat to global peace and security.

"Japan must not disturb world peace and security by amending the constitution to revive militarism and take the road of troop dispatch overseas, but make a 'contribution to the international community' by admitting and clearly liquidating its past cimes."

NODONG SINMUN Denounces Japan Link to Team Spirit

SK0503102893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 5 (KCNA)—The Japanese authorities must draw a serious lesson from the miserable end of Japanese imperialism which came to grief while running mad in wars of aggression, flying the blood-stained sun flag, promptly stop adventurous reinvasion moves and act with discretion, urges NODONG SINMUN in an article today.

Noting that Japan is actually participating in the "Team Spirit 93" military exercises and playing an important role in them, the author of the article says.

It must be noted that the Japanese "Self-Defense Forces" [SDF] are in charge of the rear and flanks of the joint manoeuvres according to the U.S.-Japan-South Korea triangular operational commanding system.

The Japanese ruling circles protest that Japan is not involved in the "Team Spirit". But it leaves its territory as a launching, relay and logic bases of the U.S. forces each time the war game is staged.

In actuality, such a war rehearsal as "Team Spirit" is impossible without Japan.

And brasshats of the Japanese "SDF" participate in the "Team Spirit" as "observers."

This year, too, it is the Japan-based U.S. forces and the "SDF" that took actions first when the joint military exercises started.

Along with the escalation of the "Team Spirit" in recent years, military exercises of the "SDF" and the U.S. forces have numerically increased, developing into a joint air exercise first and then into a joint military rehearsal involving the three services.

The "Team Spirit" is an offspring of the U.S. Asian strategy. The United States attaches great importance to the Japanese Armed Forces in executing this strategy.

It is zealously inveigling Japan into the fulfilment of its aggressive design. Japan, availing itself of the U.S. strategy and policy of war, intends to launch an overseas aggression. This is why Japan is taking an active part in the "Team Spirit."

Combat units of the Japanese Armed Forces are now being deployed in areas facing the Korean peninsula. And the "SDF" units engaged in the drill are being brought near the coastal waters of Korea. This poses a grave threat to peace and security of Asia.

NODONG SINMUN Criticizes Japanese IAEA Comment

SK0703091893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0824 GMT 7 Mar 93

["Japanese Authorities Should Not Rashly Behave"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 7 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today condemns the Japanese authorities for recklessly putting nuclear pressure upon the DPRK.

Chief cabinet secretary of Japan Kono told a press conference that it is necessary for North Korea to clearly react to nuclear inspection in the negotiations for the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations and that North Korea should accept nuclear inspection. Earlier, the press secretary of the Japanese Foreign Ministry said that if the DPRK refuses to accept "special inspection", it would be difficult to resume the Japan-DPRK negotiations for the normalization of diplomatic relations.

The Japanese authorities are clamouring for "special inspection" of the DPRK with outcries over a fictitious "nuclear problem" of the DPRK in a bid to justify the nuclear armament of Japan, the anaylyst says, and goes on:

Japan is playing the role of a despicable shock brigade serving the U.S.-led international reactionaries in clamour for "special inspection" to isolate and stifle the DPRK and justify its moves to become a nuclear power under the pretext of "nuclear suspicion" against someone and realise its ambition for aggression.

The Japanese authorities are foolishly attempting to use DPRK-Japan talks as a means of pressuring the DPRK to accept "special inspection".

The Japanese authorities are quite ignorant of the Korean people's will. We have lived and will do so in future, too, without any help of Japan. We have never had an intention to hold DPRK- Japan talks under any pressure of Japan. We will never respond to the talks as long as the ja nese side raises the "nuclear problem" as a precondition. This is our invariable stand. We will never seek to improve relations with Japan, while the security and sovereignty of the country being infringed upon.

Unreasonable pressure upon the DPRK and moves to become a military power, a nuclear power will only drive Japan itself into a more difficult plight. The Japanese authorities should not rashly behave.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to Syrian President

SK0703092193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0838 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 7 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the March 8 revolution in Syria.

In the message President Kim Il-song said:

In the past 30 years after the victory in the revolution, the Syrian Arab people have made great success in the endeavours to defend the sovereignty of the country, achieve national unity and build an independent economy under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party headed by the president.

The Korean people extend firm solidarity with the just cause of the Syrian Arab people to retake lost Arab land and maintain peace in the Middle East.

President Kim Il-song wished the Syrian president and people greater success in the work for the independent development and prosperity of the country and fair solution of the mideast problem and expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would grow stronger and develop in the idea of independence, peace, and friendship.

Premier Attends Metal Ministry Meeting

SK0703032093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Comrade Kim Chong-il, the dear leader of our party and people and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], sent a special thank-you message to the responsible functionaries and the party committee of the Ministry of Metal Industry for setting an example in supporting the People's Army.

On the occasion of the felicitous February national holiday, with the single mind of bringing into full bloom our party's ideology of the army-people unity, the responsible functionaries and officials of the Ministry of Metal Industry sincerely acquired and sent major necessary materials for soldiers' training and living under the guidance of the party's organizations. By so doing, they encouraged the People's Army's soldiers and positively contributed to strengthening the militant power of the People's Army.

A meeting to deliver the special thank-you message from Comrade Kim Chong-il, KPA supreme commander, was held on the spot on the afternoon of 4 March. [passage omitted]

Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Choe Yong-nim, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice premier of the Administration Council, and minister of the Ministry of Metal Industry; and functionaries concerned attended the meeting with other employees. [passage omitted]

Kim Il-song Meets KPA Supply Personnel

SK0603212993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 6 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], today met and congratulated the participants in the meeting of KPA supply personnel.

The participants enthusiastically welcomed them, raising stormy cheers of "Hurrah!"

They were accompanied by Vice Marshal Choe Kwang, chief of General Staff of the Korean People's Army; Vice Marshal of the KPA Yi Ul-sol; Vice Marshal Choe In-tok; Vice Marshal Yi Tu-ik; General Cho Myong-son; General Kim Yong-yon; General Yi Pyong-uk; General Yi Pong-won; Colonel General Won Myong-kyun; and Colonel General Hyon Chol-hae.

President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il congratulated the participants in the meeting who have made active contributions to increasing the fighting power of the People's Army by displaying the spirit of devotion in the military supply work upholding the party's chuche-based line of army building before posing for a photograph with then.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to President of Ghana

SK0503105393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 5 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings today to President Jerry John Rawlings of the Republic of Ghana on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the independence of Ghana.

In the message President Kim Il-song said that today the Ghanaian people under the leadership of their president were making active efforts to develop the economy and build a peaceful and stabilized country.

He wished the president and people of Ghana greater success in their work for the prosperity of the country and expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would grow stronger and develop in the future.

Choe Kwang Addresses Army Supply Personnel Meeting

SK0703091293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0818 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 7 (KCNA)—A meeting of supply personnel of the Korean People's Army [KPA] was held at the February 8 house of culture on March 5 and 6.

The meeting reviewed achievements and experiences in the logistic work, upholding the party's policy to strengthen supply work, and discussed tasks to further improve the living of the armymen and make full combat preparations in the logistic work of the KPA to meet the requirements of reality.

A congratulatory message of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] to the participants in the meeting was read out by Vice Marshal Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission, member of the party central military commission and chief of the General Staff of the KPA.

The congratulatory message highly appreciates the KPA supply personnel for positively contributing to further improving the living of the armymen and making full combat preparations in logistics under the leadership of the party in the past.

It expresses the firm conviction that all the supply personnel of the People's Army will live up to the deep trust and expectation of the party by improving logistic work in the army in the spirit of devoted service to the armymen under the party's leadership.

Colonel General Hyon Chol Hae of the KPA delivered a report which was followed by speeches.

The reporter and speakers stressed that in order to discharge their heavy yet honourable mission for the party supply personnel should firmly establish the leadership system of the party and become genuine loyalists and filial sons who uphold the idea and leadership of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army with loyalty and faithfully serve the armymen under the slogan "Let Us Live and Work as Supply Officers of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army!"

They called upon all the supply personnel to decisively smash the anti-DPRK, anti-socialist manoeuvres of the imperialists and reactionaries, resolutely defend our-style socialism with arms and staunchly fight for national reunification and for the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche under the leadership of the party and the leader.

A congratulatory group of students of the Mangyongdae revolution school entered the meeting hall and read out a congratulatory message to the meeting.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il, the dear leader of our party and people and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, was adopted at the meeting.

KCNA Commemorates Agricultural Workers Day

SK0503104193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 5 (KCNA)—March 5 is day of agricultural working people in Korea.

The age-old desire of peasants for land was realized in Korea with the promulgation of the agrarian reform law on March 5, 1946.

The agricultural working people of Korea are now significantly greeting their holiday with signal success in their new year's farming preparations.

According to data available, at the end of February, South Hwanghae Province, Kaesong municipality and North Hamgyong Province were well to the fore in producing manure and carrying it out to fields. They fulfilled their plans respectively at 132, 113 and 110 percent.

The cooperative farms in South Hwanghae Province have carried to paddy and non-paddy fields nearly 2,000 more tons of good-quality manure than had been planned.

Rural communities in Pyongyang, South Hamgyong Province and North Hwanghae Province have completed repairs of tractors and trailing farm machines in a short period by actively enlisting reserves.

Those in North and South Pyongan and South Hamgyong Provinces have stored sufficient water in every reservoir and completed the check-up and repair of pumping equipment.

Substantial preparations for cold-bed rice sowing are currently under way at all rural communities in Pyongyang, North Hwanghae and South Pyongan Provinces and other areas.

KCNA: Youth Volunteers To Work in Countryside

SK0803110693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 8 (KCNA)—Many Korean young people are volunteering to the socialist countryside in hearty response to the agriculture-first policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The volunteers to the rural communities this year include Kim Pong-sun, Kim Yong-suk, Yi Chun-hui and Pak Sin-suk of the Pyongyang children's knitwear mill who went out to the Unbong cooperative farm in Pyongwon County, South Pyongan Province, An Man Song of Naknang District, Pyongyang municipality, who chose the Songchon-up cooperative farm in Songchon County, South Pyongan Province, Kim Chong-chol of Pyongchon district, Pyongyang municipality, who found his way to a cooperative farm in Hwangju County, North Hwanghae Province, Sin Chong-suk of Songyo district, Pyongyang municipality, who settled down at the Migok cooperative farm in Sariwon city of North Hwanghae Province, and Pak Un-hui and nine other young people of the Hamhung Songchongang garment factory who proceeded to the Tongbong cooperative farm in Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province.

The young men and women who had volunteered to the socialist countryside earlier formed youth workteams and youth sub-workteams and are now performing feats in agricultural production. They have formed more than 470 youth workteams and sub-workteams on cooperative farms in the past 10 years and tended over 30,000 plots as youth plots with care, greatly contributing to the grain production of the country. The members of the youth sub-workteam who collectively volunteered to the Sogok cooperative farm in Sinhung County, South Hamgyong Province, after graduating from the Sinhung senior middle school in Hamhung city, South Hamgyong Province, put farming on a scientific and technical basis as demanded by the chuche method of farming in the past seven or eight years and harvested 10 to 12 tons of maize from each hectare.

Today the Korean young people regard it their greatest pride to volunteer to the socialist countryside and main domains of the national economy and devote their youthful energy and wisdom.

Nearly 1.5 million young people have proceeded to main domains of the national economy and contributed to the prosperity and development of the socialist homeland in the past 10 odd years since 1981 when the 7th congress of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea was held.

Anniversary of Agrarian Reform Law Noted

SK0603002493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 5 (KCNA)—The 5th of March is the day when the historic law on agrarian reform was promulgated.

The great leader President Kim Il-song promulgated "Law on Agrarian Reform in North Korea" on March 5, 1946 to gratify age-old desire of the peasants for land.

The peasants significantly greet this day as day of agricultural working people.

The enforcement of the agrarian reform, completion of agricultural cooperativization and successful promotion of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, in the Korean countryside have brought dramatic changes in peasants' lot.

Before liberation farmers went out to the fields at dawn and came back home when the stars were twinkling, after tilling the land with wooden ploughs and worn-out hoes all day long.

Those peasants are now experiencing the joy and happiness of labor with the pride of being masters of the socialist rural village in charge of the nation's rice granaries.

After liberation the state has constantly enforced popular policies for improving the peasants' livelihood.

It gave a large amount of financial and material support to the peasants after the war to improve their deteriorated life. In 1966 it completely abolished the agricultural tax in kind system, freeing the peasants from the tax burden for good.

Today not only productive facilities but also modern houses are built at the expense of the state and provided to peasants free.

New villages made their appearance on more than 950 cooperative farms last year alone.

Peasants are granted such benefits as free education, free medical care and rest at sanatoria and holiday homes by the state.

The social security system is in force for the farmers to pay them old-age pension, working disability pension, bereaved families' pension as workers and office employees.

The farmers' living conditions are as good as those of the urban population with the conversion of the village clinics into hospitals and introduction of water and bus services and through wire radio and television networks into countryside.

Irrigation and electrification have been completed and mechanization and widespread use of chemicals have been successfully promoted in agriculture with the result that nearly all farm work is done with the help of highly-efficient modern machines.

Joyous daily labor of farmers is followed by diverse forms of cultural life in the evening.

What is particularly notable in the daily life of the agricultural working people is that they are growing to be engineers and assistant engineers, enrolled in the study-while-working higher educational system.

Technicians and experts are trained in groups at the farmers' colleges set up in major agricultural areas such as Chongsan, Unjon and Yonbaek and the local study teams of colleges operating throughout the country to reinforce the rural technical force.

KCNA Reviews 6 Mar Pyongyang Press

SK0603072393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0553 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 6 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent to President Jerry John Rawlings on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the independence of Ghana.

Under the title "Let's Firmly Equip Ourselves With the Socialist Idea of Chuche" NODONG SINMUN editorially calls upon the officials and working people to deeply study the profound idea and theory contained in the historical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il "Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable" so as to resolutely smash the vicious abuses and attacks by the imperialists and the reactionaries and firmly defend the dignity and honor of socialism.

Repercussions of the work on the working people are echoed in the press.

NODONG SINMUN reports that President Kim Il-song received a message from Amir Jaber Al-ahmed Al-jaber Al-sabah in reply to his message of greetings on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the national day of the state of Kuwait and solidarity letters to him from various countries denouncing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

An Indian paper introduced the brief history of the revolutionary activities of the great leader President Kim Il-song, says the paper.

MINJU CHOSON devotes much space to a story about the trust and love shown by President Kim Il-song to anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter O Chong-hop and his family.

Comrade Kim Chong-il sent special thanks to the Ministry of Metal Industry which set an example in assisting the people's army soldiers, according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries a letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il from the participants in the 28th national scientific forum on the chuche idea held in Japan.

An article of the paper says that Comrade Kim Chong-il led the work to build the Chongsan cooperative farm in Nampo municipality into a model communist rural village.

The birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il was grandly celebrated in different countries, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN gives an account of a meeting held to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the February 26 factory, a reliable precision machine producer of the country.

Econews of the press includes reports about the increased production of coal and brisk preparations for farming in the rural communities across the country.

The press rounds up foreign public voices denouncing the the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

South Korean news of the press includes reports that South Korean paper HANGYORE SINMUN supported the 1,000-men declaration for the repeal of the "National Security Law" and a spokesman for an opposition party demanded the abolition of the law.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary condemns the South Korean rulers for having staged a government-sponsored function of welcoming the U.S. Marines participating in the "Team Spirit" war game.

An article of the paper deals with the powerful anti-war, anti-nuclear struggle which is now gaining momentum among the South Korean people.

MINJU CHOSON runs a commentary in connection with the recent exposure of nuclear arms development by the South Korean authorities.

The press conveys foreign public voices demanding an immediate stop to the moves of the International Atomic Energy Agency for "special inspection" of the DPRK.

Papers run commentaries denouncing the director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for vilifying the DPRK' clamouring about "nuclear development" and "nuclear facilities."

NODONG SINMUN reports that the Mongolian president referred to the economic situation of the country and to the tasks for this year.

The press observes the national days of Ghana and Bulgaria.

An article of NODONG SINMUN exposes the "Team Spirit" war game as a nuclear gamble.

KCNA Reviews 8 Mar NODONG SINMUN

SK0803052093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the March 8 revolution in Syria.

Appearing in the paper is news that President Kim Il-song received solidarity letters and messages from foreign countries supporting his New Year address.

The daily carries an article about the loving care shown by President Kim Il-song to Kim Hye-son, chairman of the Song-2 ri rural committee, Songthae-myon, Kangso County, who was killed by the class enemy shortly after liberation.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to agitators who had set examples in vigorously rousing working people in the implementation of the party's policies, says the paper.

The paper informs the readers that Pakistani papers reported the brief history of the revolutionary activities of Comrade Kim Chong-il and his birthday was grandly celebrated in many countries.

Highlighted in the paper are reports about brisk preparations for spring sowing on co-op farms and signal achievements in the production of coal and consumer goods.

"Creative Stand Is Fundamental Method That Must Be Relied On in Revolution and Construction" is the title of an article of the paper.

On the occasion of the March 8 international women's day the paper deals with the happy life of the women in the northern half of the country and the miserable plight of the South Korean women who are forsaken under the colonial fascist rule.

The paper conveys world public voices bitterly denouncing the criminal "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

South Korean people denounced the unreasonable stand of the authorities and the Japanese Government regarding the problem of "comfort girls for the army" and the National Council of Christian Churches of South Korea demanded the release of all the political prisoners and reinstatement of dismissed teachers, reports the daily.

Published in the paper is an article exposing the reactionary nature of the "total wage system" enforced by the South Korean authorities.

The paper conveys voices of the world political and public circles sharply denouncing the brigandish demand of the United States and its followers for a "special inspection" of the DPRK.

Foreign news columns of the paper include reports that the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran called for heightened vigilance against the U.S.-led imperialists' moves and a roundtable conversation for hearing testimonies about the brutal atrocities of Japan in the wartime was held at the U.N. office in Geneva.

The paper observes the 30th anniversary of the March 8 revolution in Syria.

An article of the paper deals with the successful holding of the election of the deputies to the National Assembly of People's Power and representatives of the provincial People's Power Assembly in Cuba.

The paper reports about the continued efforts of the Afghan Government and parties concerned for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

South Korea

Reports, Reaction on DPRK-IAEA Nuclear Standoff

North To Allow IAEA Reactor Sampling

SK0603004393 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] North Korea has agreed to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to take samples from the core of a nuclear reactor at its Yongbyon complex during the seventh round of ad hoc inspections that is expected in May, an informed government source said yesterday. North Korea had previously refused to let IAEA inspectors obtain the samples, saying that it would have to stop operations of the reactor to do so, he said. In a change of heart, North Korea has now said it would shut down the reactor in May to allow the IAEA to obtain samples, the source said. The samples, if taken, will provide clues to several important questions, such as how long the reactor has been operated and thus how much plutonium the North has extracted from the spent fuel from the reactor, he said.

The source added that even if inspection of the reactor is allowed, it would be impossible for Pyongyang to avoid the IAEA's demand to accept special inspections on two buildings at the same Yongbyon nuclear complex, where the agency suspects North Korea might be hiding nuclear wastes that could also provide critical evidence on their plutonium production. But North Koreans have shown no signs of accepting that demand at this time, he said.

North Korea last year reported to the IAEA that it had extracted 90 grams of plutonium in 1990 from the spent fuel collected from the 5MW reactor for research purposes. It said the reactor was shut down at that time due to mechanical problems. North Koreans also claim that they have not changed fuels of the reactor since it first entered operation in 1987. But the IAEA, based on the results of the past six rounds of ad hoc inspections, suspects that North Korean must have shut down the reactor at least three times—in 1989, 1990 and 1991—to collect spent fuels for plutonium extraction.

Raising further questions, examination by the IAEA of the samples of nuclear wastes provided by Pyongyang also shows that North Korea has extracted at least 148 grams of plutonium. North Koreans have claimed that these inconsistencies originate from incorrect data input and other improper procedures, rather than deception. The IAEA, in order to clear up such inconsistencies, is now demanding that North Korea accept "special inspections" of two buildings at the Yongbyon nuclear complex.

North Korean did not allow IAEA inspectors access to the buildings early last month, saying that they are simply military facilities and have nothing to do with its nuclear program. Instead, North Korea fiercely resisted the demand, accusing the United States, South Korea and the IAEA of trying to spy on its military facilities. The IAEA gave North Korea one month to accept the special inspection during its Board of Governors' meeting in Vienna late last month.

Group Urges DPRK To Accept Inspection

SK0603003093 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2316 GMT 5 Mar 93

[By correspondent Cha Man-sun in Vienna]

[Text] Dr. Steiner, chairman of the Austria-North Korea Friendship Association, stressed in his letter to North Korea that North Korea should respect and observe international agreements and resolutions as a member of international society, noting that the friendship association is very much concerned with the deepened conflict between North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

The Austria-North Korea Friendship Association urged that the point of conflict with the IAEA should be clarified immediately in order to help all relevant countries understand that North Korea does not possess or develop nuclear weapons just as all the association members have maintained. The Austria-North Korea Friendship Association also urged North Korea to make relevant facts clear specifically in consideration of the association members' concerns about it. It revealed that it cannot understand the position of North Korea which is refusing the acceptance of a special inspection by the IAEA.

The Austria-North Korea Friendship Association also said that North Korea should respect the IAEA resolution if it truly respects world peace, while stressing that the association has actively supported North Korea's efforts to denuclearize the Korean peninsula. The association welcomed North Korea's entry into the UN and its signing of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty based on the viewpoint of denuclearizing the peninsula.

Meanwhile, the Austria-North Korea Friendship Association, which is headed by Dr. Steiner, professor of history at Vienna University, has some 40 members including active parliamentary members including Austria Socialist Party chairman Heinz, and social influential figures such as a former Communist Party chairman. It has actively supported North Korea's position for the past 20 years.

Envoy to IAEA on North Strategy

SK0603063093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0617 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections show North Korea may have, or is very close to having, enough weapons-grade plutonium to manufacture a bomb, the top South Korean representative to the agency said Saturday. "It is becoming clearer that North Korea had planned on developing nuclear weapons from the beginning when it built its reactor," Ambassador to Vienna Yi Si-yong told a press conference.

Unless North Korea accepted IAEA special inspections, the agency could not but take the case to the U.N. Security Council as stated in IAEA regulations, he said. Yi is on a week-long stay in Seoul from Thursday to brief the government on recent developments at the IAEA on North Korea's nuclear issue. He is expected to attend the first inter-ministerial national unification meeting March 10 where the new administration will discuss its North Korean policy with the nuclear controversy on top of the agenda.

Six years after signing the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), Pyongyang concluded a nuclear safeguards accord last year. "Inspection results strongly indicate North Korea intentionally delayed the signing of the safeguards accord to pursue its nuclear program," Yi said. "And there has been significant progress in its program according to IAEA inspections." IAEA director-general Hans Blix told the Board of Governors the agency suspects North Korea produced grams, or even kilograms, of plutonium, but the ambassador claimed the seriousness of the North Korean nuclear threat is much bigger. "We do not count out the possibility that North Korea already has or is very close to having enough plutonium to make a bomb," the ambassador said.

North Korea reported to the IAEA that it extracted plutonium only once, in an experiment in 1986 at its 5-megawatt reactor, and had less than 100 grams of plutonium. It takes 7kg to 8kg of plutonium to manufacture one nuclear bomb. The IAEA believes Pyongyang successfully reprocessed spent fuel on numerous occasions from the mid-1970s and is hiding significant quantities of plutonium at two sites near its Yongbyon nuclear complex.

North Korea claims that the 5-megawatt reactor has not been in full operation, but if it was in full gear since it was completed six years ago, the IAEA believes it could have produced at least 30kg of plutonium, according to Lee. Magnox, a 5-megawatt reactor type developed in england in the 1940s, is low in safety and economic efficiency and unfit for a power generator. It is far better suited for plutonium extraction. North Korea has natural uranium and graphite, which are ingredients to nuclear reprocessing.

ROK To Clarify Policy on DPRK Program

SK0803021793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will review all pending inter-Korean issues to clarify its policy on North Korea's nuclear development program, inter-Korean economic cooperation and reunions of separated families this month.

For the review, National Unification Minister Han Wansang will preside over a high-level meeting Wednesday followed by a several working-level and high-level meetings to coordinate the different positions of government agencies on North Korea.

Dialogue with Pyongyang is expected to resume when the U.S.-South Korea "Team Spirit" military exercise ends in mid-April, a source said Monday. The government would work out its policy on North Korea by the end of March or early April to prepare for the resumption of dialogue, he added.

Another government source said the government would adopt a forward-looking position in its policy toward Pyongyang. On humanitarian issues, such as easing the pains of separated families, the government will try to act with as few conditions as possible. In this context, the unconditional repatriation of Yi In- mo, a self-styled North Korean war correspondent who refuses to renounce communism, could be positively studied, the source said.

ROK Nuclear Negotiator To Visit U.S.

SK0603024493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0206 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—Chief inter-Korean nuclear negotiator Kong No-myong leaves Sunday for the United States and Japan for in-depth consultations on North Korea's nuclear problem, Foreign Ministry officials said Saturday. Kong, Seoul-side chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) and spokesman for the prime ministers' talks, will meet with U.S. State and Defense Department officials during his Washington trip March 7-12. His trip comes immediately after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) demanded its first-ever special inspection on North Korea's suspected nuclear sites and Pyongyang's refused to comply.

The envoy is to discuss ways to make North Korea open up its suspected sites and accept inter-Korean nuclear inspection, and possible sanctions, including taking the issue to the U.N. Security Council, officials said. He has scheduled talks with Peter Tarnoff, undersecretary of state for political affairs, Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state-designate, his predecessor, William Clarke, Anthony Lake, National Security Council adviser, and other officials from the Defense Department.

Kong will be in Japan March 12-18 to consult with Tetsuya Endo, Tokyo's new chief delegate to North Korea-Japan diplomatic normalization talks, Hisashi Owada, a vice minister, and other officials dealing in Korean affairs. He is also to attend a seminar co-sponsored by Japan's Keio University and George Washington University of the United States on Northeast Asia.

YONHAP Notes Previous DPRK Mobilizations

SK0803120793 Seoul YONHAP in English 1157 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—North Korea Monday afternoon declared a quasi-war time state toward all the regular and irregular armed forces of North Korea. The declaration was in connection with the joint Korea-U.S. Team Spirit military exercise which kicked off in the South on Monday.

According to the NAEWOE Press, Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the North Korean military, issued "Order No. 0034 of the North Korean supreme military commander" at 5 P.M., in which he handed down three-point instructions while denouncing the Team Spirit as a "nuclear war game preliminary to invasion of North Korea." In the instructions, Kim Chong-il ordered the whole people and military to enter the state of a quasi-war time beginning Tuesday, the entire North Korean military, people's security forces and workers and peasants militias to be fully prepared for battle. He also instructed the whole residents to be armed with subject views of war and to work with renovative spirits in economic construction.

This is the second time for North Korea to issue a quasi-war time state in connection with the Team Spirit exercise. They declared a similar state at the time of the 1983 exercise. During other Team Spirit maneuvers, North Korea issued either battle mobilization state, battle preparation state or battle mobilization preparation state. A quasi-war time state was declared also in the wake of their terrorist bombing against a South Korean diplomatic delegation in Rangoon, Myanmar in 1983.

NUB To Expand DPRK Intelligence Collection Role

SK0703143493 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] The National Unification Board [NUB] decided to expand its broadcast monitoring facilities and to directly collect intelligence on North Korea through defectors in a bid to supplement its shortcoming in having to obtain North Korean intelligence from the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP].

The plan prepared by the NUB to intensify the collection of intelligence on North Korea consists of two measures; one is to jointly obtain intelligence which is being monopolized by the NSP, and another is to strengthen its own functions of collecting intelligence.

The NUB decided to allow relevant experts to participate in the investigation of defectors, which is led by the NSP and attended only by the military and police, so that it can free itself from only receiving intelligence unilaterally offered by the NSP. Besides, the NUB plans to work with the NSP during emergencies by installing direct telephone line with the NSP.

The NUB will strengthen its own intelligence-collection functions by installing facilities to monitor the Korean Central News Agency [KCNA], the only North Korean news agency, in addition to the existing system of monitoring the Korean Central Broadcasting Network and the Pyongyang Broadcasting Network.

It was learned that the NSP offers intelligence materials to general researchers and the NUB only after sifting through such materials. Therefore, researchers and officials relevant to reunification issue have restrictions in analyzing and researching North Korean affairs. As a result, there have been serious problems in the past.

In actuality, the NUB obtained the text of the 7th revised North Korean constitution much later than its dissemination to the general public. Besides, the NUB is provided with NODONG SINMUN and North Korean broadcast materials by the NSP about one week to 10 days after the publication and broadcast.

A high-level official in the NUB said that in addition to the effort to expand its functions of collecting North Korean intelligence, the NUB is going to hold regular meetings with the NSP, Foreign Ministry, and other organizations handling North Korean intelligence, for the purpose of comprehensive and systematic analysis of intelligence on North Korea.

Team Spirit Exercise Begins 8 Mar

SK0803094093 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 8 Mar 93 p 23

[Text] The ROK and the United States started their full-dress strategic Team Spirit joint military exercise on 8 March. The exercise will continue for nine days.

General Ku Chang-hoe, commander of the Chong [green] unit of the Central Field Army, received notification from commanders of both ROK and U.S. Armies including Lieutenant Colonel (C. Kurbeyja), head of the U.S. First Army who is in charge of training the northward advance unit, on the attachment of their units.

The full-dress strategic exercise will be a mobilized simulated war and river-crossing exercises of the ground army dividing it into the Chong and Hong [red] units in the central region. The exercise will also be held on the seas around Pohang with landing exercises being held.

JNCC Chairman To Meet U.S. State Officials

SK0803012293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0105 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Washington, March 7 (YONHAP)—Kong Nomyong, Seoul-side chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), was to meet with senior officials of the U.S. State Department on Monday to discuss North Korea's nuclear problem.

Kong is to meet with Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state-designate for East Asia and the Pacific, and with his predecessor, William Clarke, to deliver Seoul's position that if inter-Korean nuclear inspection or International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection on North Korea did not make satisfactory progress, substantial progress in relations between South and North Korea would be difficult.

South Korean Embassy officials said, "With the start of new governments in Seoul and Washington, it is necessary to consult with the United States and to rearrange our position on North Korea's nuclear problem."

At present, Washington is resolute on North Korea's nuclear development and without the settlement of the issue, improving relations with North Korea is impossible, they said. Kong is to meet with Defense Department officials Tuesday and with the national security advisers Wednesday. Kong arrived Sunday and met with Korean Ambassador Hyon Hong-chu.

U.S. Charge Calls on Deputy Prime Minister

SK0803063593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0608 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—South Korean Deputy Prime Minister Han Wan-sang received a courtesy call from U.S. Charge d'Affaires Raymond Burghardt on Monday and agreed to closely consult him on matters of mutual concern, including North Korea's nuclear development program. Han, who is also national unification minister, and the U.S. envoy agreed to make concerted efforts to urge Pyongyang to accept inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in connection with the controversial program. Han emphasized to Burghardt that Seoul would tackle the problem through full inter-ministerial discussions in an effort to resolve a deadlock in relations between the two Koreas.

Czech Government Said To Ask DPRK Diplomats To Leave

SK0803132193 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1254 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] The Czech Government has called on North Korean diplomats in Prague to leave because North Korea does not recognize the current Czech Republic as the state of succession to Czechoslovakia and because it gives hard times to Czech delegates to the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission [NNSC] in the Military Demarcation Line between the North and South. North Korea demanded on 18 January that Czech delegates to the NNSC leave because the Czech Government has no rights to succeed to Czechoslovakia.

ROK Ministry Reacts to Czech Supervisory Pullout

SK0603032293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0309 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—The Czech Republic will pull out of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) because of North Korean pressure and retaliate by ordering 13 North Korean diplomats out of Prague, Foreign Ministry officials said Saturday. A Czech government statement accusing Pyongyang of "unfriendly acts" had announced it was leaving the commission effective April 10, the officials said. Prague will order 13 North Korean diplomats out, leaving only the ambassador and two others, the same number as at the Czech Embassy in Pyongyang, they said.

Czech served on the NNSC with Poland, Sweden, and Switzerland to oversee the armistice signed at the end of the Korean war. North Korea had named Czechoslovakia and Poland for its side. Pyongyang recently slapped restrictions on Czech members of the NNSC, insisting that Czech be replaced by another country since it was Czechoslovakia that was appointed to the committee and the seat automatically became empty when the country split Jan. 1. Restrictions placed since Jan. 12 include forbidding the officials from leaving their residential premises, taking away their transportation, forbidding any outside contact and refusing medical services.

The statement said North Korea made its decision without any consultation with involved parties, according to the officials. North Korea completely ignored Czech's proposal to solve this problem through negotiations, the statement reportedly said. The armistice agreement stipulates that North Korea must first designate a replacement NNSC member and notify the United Nations Command.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry response statement said it was "extremely regrettable" that Pyongyang unilaterally took forceful measures to pressure Czech out of the NNSC. "Such North Korean actions not only violate the inter-Korean basic agreement that honors the armistice agreement and the NNSC but undermine the functions of the 40-year-old NNSC and intensify tension on the Korean peninsula," the ministry statement said. "We strongly urge North Korea to decide on the replacement through talks with other involved parties to normalize the NNSC as soon as possible," it said.

Russia To Send Observer to Team Spirit Exercise

SK0603034693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0248 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—Russia will send an observer to the South Korea-U.S. military exercise "Team Spirit" for the first time this year, the Foreign and Defense Ministries announced Saturday. The observer will be the Russian military attache in Seoul, Capt. Nikolay Usov, officials said. This year's Team Spirit will be observed by all four members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC)—Czech, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland—and by Russia and Singapore.

The 10 observers from the six nations will be in South Korea March 7-18. They will be joined by 42 military attaches from 28 resident missions in Seoul, the officials said. Team Spirit has been held annually from 1976, but was canceled for the first time last year when North Korea signed the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The maneuver was revived this year after a stalemate in inter-Korean talks for simultaneous nuclear inspection. Seoul has invited Russia, China and North Korea to observe the maneuver to convince them that it is not a nuclear exercise.

Russia Claims 'No Danger' From Nuclear Dumping

SK0603072193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0559 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—Russia recently informed the South Korean Foreign Ministry that there is no danger of contamination from nuclear waste dumped in the East Sea. The ministry had sought a response to a British television report that the Russian Navy was dumping nuclear waste into the East Sea, an official said Saturday.

Tokyo has informed the ministry that a Japanese examination of the East Sea found no sign of contamination, he said. Fearing that if Russia keeps dumping nuclear waste into the East Sea it may result in contamination, Korea will propose a joint Seoul-Moscow survey of the waters, the official said.

ROK Institute: Japan Proposes Australian Trade Ties

SK0803033293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—Amid dim prospects for settlement in the Uruguay Round negotiations, Japan is poised to launch an Asian version of the multilateral trade talks without the United States, the Korea Institute for Economics and Trade (KIET) said Monday.

A ranking Japanese Foreign Ministry official has proposed that Japan seek economic integration with Australia, with which it has an understanding in economic, security and political relations, a KIET spokesman said. The proposal was made recently by Kazuo Okura in an essay on regional integration and Japan's choice.

If Japan and Australia went ahead it would weaken the authority of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), already hurt by the regionalistic stances of the European Community and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and be prejudicial to the newly industrialized countries such as South Korea given the industrial structures of Japan and Australia, the KIET official said.

Okura, director-general the International Economic Bureau at the Foreign Ministry, suggested in his essay that continuing the Washington-Tokyo Structural Impediment Initiative (SII) might create a political imbalance favorable to the United States.

He also noted a lack of partnership among ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), NAFTA countries, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), which includes Korea, Australia, Japan and New Zealand. Tokyo and Canberra were expected to mull over a regional trade forum because Japan had excluded the United States and Canada, two APEC members, from next month's Asia-Pacific economic conference, the KIET spokesman said.

He noted that the Australian prime minister had proposed a third alternative to a delegation of Japanese economic organizations, apart from NAFTA and the East Asian Economic Community (EAEC), during its visit to Australia last year-end. Multilateral Asian talks led by Japan and Australia would only fan regionalism along with the EC and NAFTA and weaken the position of the GATT, he said.

ts Reported

Justice, Construction, Health Posts

SK0803064293 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0603 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] At 1500 [0600 GMT] this afternoon, President Kim Yong-sam partially reshuffled the cabinet by appointing a new justice minister, a construction minister, and a health and social affairs minister. Kim Tu-hui, public prosecutor-general, has been appointed justice minister. Ko Pyong-u, director of the Korea Stock Exchange, has been appointed construction minister. Song Chong-suk, editorial writer of SEOUL SINMUN, has been appointed health and social affairs minister. Yi Won-chong, former governor of the North Chungchong provincial government, has been appointed mayor of Seoul.

Ministers Profiled

SK0803090993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0844 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—Following are profiles of the new justice, health-social affairs, and construction ministers and Seoul mayor.

—Justice Minister Kim Tu-hui is elevated to the cabinet three months after being named prosecutor-general. Kim, 52, a native of Sanchong, South Kyongsang Province, began his career in 1966 with the Seoul District Prosecutor's Office and has served in a variety of major posts, including chief of the central investigative department at the supreme prosecutor's office and head of the Seoul District Prosecutor's Office.

Famed as being gregarious and competent, Kim had long been seen in prosecution circles as a potential prosecutor-general or justice minister. A man of few words and unchallenged conviction, the graduate of Seoul National University Law College made a big dent in the prosecution by solving big-scale land speculation cases in the 1980s despite pressures from outside.

—at a first glance, Health and Social Affairs Minister Song Chong-suk is out of her league because she has been a journalist for the last 32 years. Song, 57, an editorial writer for the vernacular daily SEOUL SINMUN, began her journalistic career in 1961 and has held several posts, including culture editor. A graduate of Konkuk University, Song has also been a member of the Korean Broadcasting Commission and played a leading role in women's circles.

—New Construction Minister Ko Pyong-u, chairman of the Korea Stock Exchange, has a wide range of experience in government, business and academia. A native of Okgu, North Cholla Province, the 60-year-old Ko served as presidential secretary on economic affairs and assistant finance minister, assistant finance minister for planning and management in the

Third Republic. After retiring from government, Ko spent 10 years as president of Ssangyong Securities Co. and in 1990 was named chairman of the stock exchange. In this post, Ko played a leading role in opening the capital market to foreign investors. A man of few words, he is noted for the dogged way he pursues a task once he has deemed it necessary.

—Seoul Mayor Yi Won-chong, 51, is a career home affairs official noted for his agreeable personality and competence in business. Yi, a native of Chechon, North Chungchong Province, started his career with the Communications Ministry in 1963 and passed the higher civil service exam three years later, which landed him at the Home Ministry. The graduate of Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul is clear of corruption and did a good job handling the collapse of a run-down apartment building in Chongju while serving as governor of North Chungchong Province last year. He is promoted to mayor barely one year after being named governor.

Army Chief, Defense Security Head

SK0803035393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0317 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—Army Chief of Staff [COS] Gen. Kim Chin-yong was removed Monday and replaced by Deputy Commander of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command Gen. Kim Tong-chin. Commander of the Defense Security Command Gen. So Wan-su was also dismissed, and Chief of Staff of the Defense Security Command, Maj. Gen. Kim To-yun, was appointed to replace him. Early reports do not say why they were relieved of their posts.

Senior Army Posts Reshuffled

SK0803064093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—South Korean Army Chief of Staff Gen. Kim Chin-yong was removed and replaced by Gen. Kim Tong-chin, deputy commander of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command [CFC], Monday. Lt. Gen. So Wan-su, commander of the Defense Security Command [DSC], was also dismissed, and DSC Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Kim To-yun appointed to replace him. Kim Chin-yong had nine months left to serve of his two-year term. He is to retire from active service.

The change of the top army commander was decided by President Kim Yong-sam "in the exercise of his right to command the armed forces as their supreme commander" following the reshuffle of minister- and vice minister-level officials, Defense Ministry spokesman Pak Chae-uk said. The appointment of a major general as DSC commander was part of an election pledge to put the bloated intelligence establishment on a diet, he said. The command will have its role reduced to collecting military intelligence, with no more of the meddling in civilian lives that made it feared in the past, informed sources said.

The new Army chief of staff is a 55-year-old Seoulite and 17th class graduate of the Military Academy like his predecessor. He has held a variety of important posts and is known to be Korea's foremost expert in military diplomacy, particularly with the United States, and in military strategy. Gen. Kim Chae-chang, first deputy director of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was named to replace Kim as deputy commander of the CFC and commander of the CFC's ground forces component.

Pak said there would be no reassignments of four-star generals for the moment. Observers say the sudden dismissals were aimed at eradicating the chronic cronyism and factionalism of the army by removing two generals who were core members of the "Hanahoe" faction led by former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, graduates of the academy's 11th Class.

A native of Changwon, South Kyongsang Province, Gen. Kim To-yun is a graduate of the Military Academy's 22nd Class. He served in the special warfare unit before joining the Defense Security Command first as its director for personnel affairs.

DP Welcomes Cabinet Reshuffle

SK0803085393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0803 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—Opposition parties welcomed President Kim Yong-sam's "swift" replacement of corrupt cabinet ministers and the Seoul mayor on Monday, with the major opposition Democratic Party [DP] urging the new appointees to "make an effort to solve the amassed state problems." DP spokesman Pak Chi-won said, however, that his party could not but object to the appointment as Health and Social Affairs Minister of Song Chong-suk, an editorial writer for the SEOUL SINMUN newspaper. Song was a journalist "famed for being unfaithful to principles and distorting facts," Pak said.

Additionally, he urged the government to disclose the reasons for the dismissal of the Army chief of staff and defense security commander. "The government's replacing the holders of the two major military posts simply because of the transition of government is contradictory to the purport of the personnel policy of setting tenures of office, which allows appointees to work according to their convictions," Pak said. The minor opposition New Political Reform Party said: "We welcome the reshuffle and consider it a good thing."

Administration Minister Resigns

SK0803053993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0520 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—Government Administration Minister Choe Chang-yun resigned

Sunday after his daughter was found to have entered Ewha Womans' University by the side door using her U.S. citizenship. He tendered his resignation on Sunday evening along with Justice Minister Pak Hui-tae, whose daughter also abused her U.S. citizenship to bypass the four-to-one competitive entrance exam and enter the prestigious Ewha University.

President Kim Yong-sam was to name Choe's replacement Monday afternoon along with new justice and health and social affairs ministers and a new Seoul city mayor. All resigned following scandals over their past illegal and unethical activities after barely two weeks in office.

Choe's second daughter was born in Hawaii in 1969, while he was studying there, automatically getting U.S. citizenship. She returned with her father in 1973 and acquired Korean citizenship as well. She enrolled in Ewha as Western art major and graduated last year. Chu In-suk, Choe's wife, said her daughter's high school teacher recommended the out-of-quota enrollment and it was entirely legal.

Resignation Declined

SK0803081493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0755 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam returned Government Administration Minister Choe Chang-yun's resignation, excluding him from Monday's cabinet reshuffle. Choe's daughter, born in the United States, used her American citizenship to enter a university in South Korea without taking the highly competitive entrance exam. Justice Minister Pak Hui-tae, whose daughter also entered Ewha Womens' University with U.S. citizenship, resigned and was replaced in the reshuffle.

Reappointments affected Health and Social Affairs and Construction Ministers and Seoul City Mayor, all suspected of real estate speculation and other unethical activities. "A presidential investigation team has not found disqualifying facts in other cabinet ministers," presidential spokesman Yi Kyong-chae said. "But we keep in principle that any member will be replaced if problems arise, posing an obstacle to national reform," he said.

"We know that there are resistant forces at hand systematically obstructing the new government's efforts at reform," Yi said. "We are investigating with evidence in hand against these instigators. "There will be heavy reprimands against them," the spokesman said.

Kim To Form Anticorruption Committee 'Soon'

SK0803014993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0122 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam will form a corruption prevention committee next week to help him systematically eradicate corruption, an aide said Monday. Kim was prompted to launch the committee as soon as possible by the furor surrounding some of his cabinet appointments and by the endemic corruption permeating Korean society, said the aide, who requested that his name be withheld. The committee, to be placed under the direct command of the president, will have 15 to 20 members, and a team is already at work selecting candidates for Kim's approval. As soon as the committee is launched, the president will repeat his "anti-corruption declaration."

He will receive monthly reports on the committee's activities, which will include heading up Kim's reawakening movement for national salvation in collaboration with the public, government and the press, the aide said. Four subcommittees will carry out research into the causes of corruption and work out measures to uproot corruption by altering regulations that contain loopholes. If necessary, the committee will propose legislation. The committee will also investigate high-ranking civil servants suspected of corruption and collect information on corrupt acts by minister-level officials and report them to the president, the aide added.

Prosecution To Aid 'Clean Society'

SK0803072093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0501 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—The law enforcement authorities put their weight behind President Kim Yong-sam's war on corruption and irregularities Monday to help him build a clean society, as promised in his inaugural address. Prosecutor-general Kim Tu-hui told a meeting of district prosecutors that they would fight the war on l6 fronts.

Special investigations would be conducted into misconduct and illegalities related to construction permits, criminal investigations, taxation, financial transactions and law practices, capital flight overseas through tax evasion and scandals involving businessmen and officials, Kim said. The government should make the people's hope for a clean society come true by eliminating corruption and irregularities from all walks of life, especially from the upper class, he said. Corruption investigation teams will be set up at the prosecutor-general's office in Seoul and at district prosecutor's offices, Kim said.

Kim Yong-sam To Continue Reform Despite Opposition

SK0803093493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0626 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam said Monday that he would not halt his march toward reforms despite the signs of strong opposition, and asked for the support of the media. At a lunch for presidents of print and electronic media, the chief executive stressed that reforms, however pressing, should not be carried out in way that would shake the foundations of society or make the people uneasy. Noting that the reaction of the counter-reform forces was not weak, he said he was worried that they might use the media against him.

"This may be a cold wind that is jealous of the spring of a new Korea," Kim said. "But we should not allow the new Korea to be nipped in the bud by this wind. "Spring is not far behind winter, however cold it may be. Should we fail to carry out the reforms now, there won't be another opportunity because history never gives you two chances.

"The reforms we are pursuing are not intended to alienate specific people and groups from society or to discriminate against them. The reforms are oriented not to the past but to the future, not for destruction but for creation. So the reforms will be conducted on the basis of national consensus." Kim then expressed his thanks to the media for their support and cooperation in his reform program to cure the Korean disease. "I strongly believe the reform program will succeed in providing Korea with a force that will drive the country into the family of advanced countries in the 21st century," he said.

Defense Minister To Bolster Inspection Corps Function

SK0803130193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1240 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae said on Monday that he would drastically bolster the function of the special inspection corps attached to his ministry so as to effectively conduct reforms and combat irregularities in the military. In his first press conference after he took office late last month, Kwon said he would see to it that the head of the Defense Ministry Intelligence Headquarters would take overall control of all major military intelligence organizations such as the Defense Security Command, Intelligence Command and the 7235th Unit. "I will try to assign to the special inspection corps of my ministry the duty to inspect even these key intelligence setups," the defense chief said.

Explaining about the background surrounding President Kim Yong-sam's replacement of the Defense Security Command chief and scaling down of the rank of the command chief earlier in the day, minister Kwon said the step was to forestall "double and triple abuse of power" on the part of the command. Kwon said such abuse stemmed largely from the highness of the rank of the head of the command which is already given vast power as an unrivaled military inspector.

The minister hinted at sharply scaling down the organization of the defense security command. "Mere correction of mistaken practices alone cannot meet people's wishes," he said. He also said his ministry would soon prepare a set of measures to renovate conscription programs at the instructions of President Kim. "The president told me to do all I can to crack down on conscription-related irregularities and uproot acts of beating and other cruelty in the military," Kwon said.

Kim Yong-sam Hopes Amnesty To Aid 'Fresh Start'

SK0603051193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0444 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam said Saturday his amnesty was not just ceremonial but that it was also "an appeal for the nation to make a fresh start for the creation of a new Korea." Kim was speaking immediately after the cabinet endorsed the amnesty, granting parole, commuting prison terms or restoring civil rights for 41,886 people. "My aim in granting the amnesty was to facilitate a fresh start in grand harmony by clearing away the dark side of the past 30 or so years," Kim said. The amnesty marked the end of a dark period and allowed people to embark on the creation of a new Korea by freeing them from the past, he said.

Saying that law and order should be respected under all circumstances and cautioning against individual or collective selfishness, Kim noted, "we can't get everything at the same time." Despite the unrivaled magnitude of his amnesty, the jails aren't empty. Some people were excluded "because of the need to keep the basic frame of statutory order," he said. But if they repented, there would be an opportunity for them to help build a new Korea, he said.

Kim said he decided not to receive political funds during his five years in office because he felt that uprooting all corruption was impossible without getting rid of political corruption first. "I have told the Democratic Liberal Party to revise laws on political parties, political funds and elections to institutionally seal off the flow of illegal funds to politicians and to realize politics without the need of money," he said.

Burma

Than Shwe: SLORC Not Facing 'Crisis'

BK0603123193 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Final-year students from primary school teachers training course no. 24 of the University for Development of National Races [UDNR] paid a courtesy call on General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and commander in chief of the Defense Services, at the Mingalar Hall of the People's Assembly Building at 0900 this morning. The students received words of advice from Gen. Than Shwe during the courtesy call. The ceremony was attended by members of the SLORC; cabinet ministers; chairman of the Public Service Personnel Selection and Training Board [PSPSTB]; members of the SLORC's Information Committee, and responsible personnel from the Office of the SLORC, Office of the People's Assembly, and the PSPSTB.

At the ceremony Gen. Than Shwe, chairman of the SLORC and commander in chief of the Defense Services, acted as chairman while Lieutenant Colonel Pe Nyein, director general of office of the SLORC, acted as secretary of the ceremony. Addressing the ceremony, Gen. Than Shwe first said he was glad to meet the final year students from the primary teachers training course No. 24 and to have the opportunity of giving words of advice to them. [passage omitted]

Continuing, Gen. Than Shwe said that the SLORC is not only carrying out economic development and other development activities, but it is also successfully holding the National Convention according to the wishes and desire of the national populace. The convention being held is to discuss what kind of constitution should be drawn up to establish the future democratic country so that Myanmar [Burma] can exist with dignity and respect in the world. He stressed that according to the name, National Convention, arrangements were made to allow people from all national races, all other various races, and people from all strata of the society from states and divisions to participate in and attend the National Convention besides the delegates from political parties. He said even the terrorist insurgents, who are opposing the state, were welcome with open arms to participate in the National Convention if they gave up their armed struggle and returned to the legal fold, as they are part of our national races.

Gen. Than Shwe explained that the SLORC is accommodating all these with generosity not because it is facing any crisis nor because it is being pressured by anyone. The SLORC is trying to do as much as it can for the people and the country so that people can live happily in the long term. [passage omitted] He later said that, although he would like to say that the situation in Myanmar is heading toward stability, Myanmar can still fall into the abyss any time because of the activities of the terrorist insurgents in the country—who do not have the pride of their race in view—and the neocolonialists in various forms from abroad—who find fault with malicious intentions, and disseminate biased and exaggerated information. He warned the students to be aware of this. [passage omitted]

He told the students that it is necessary to assess the activities of terrorists and take decisive action against them. He said there are armed terrorists, who are engaged in businesses to benefit and enrich an individual and a group while shouting it is for the good for their ethnic group. There are also those who say they have to carry arms for democracy, and those free loaders who have embezzled funds and exploited political and social issues in the name of the country and the people since independence.

Continuing, Gen. Than Shwe said that irreverent mass media organizations abroad have labelled the development activities being carried out in the country as forced labor camp. He said they denigrated the dignity of the country even though they have witnessed the drug suppression campaign. He stated that they have also exaggerated matters concerning the believers of the different religion [Muslim] who fled to the country on the other side [Bangladesh] due to the local rumors and claimed there is no freedom of religion in the country. All of these clearly reflect their wishes toward Myanmar. [passage omitted]

SLORC Accused of 'Dragging Out' Convention

BK0503131193 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1345 GMT 4 Mar 93

[From the "Current Affairs" Program]

[Text] The plenary session of the National Convention in Burma was postponed once again on Wednesday [3 March] to allow the delegates to hold discussions amongst themselves. It is not known when this session will resume. According to the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council], it is to allow the 700 delegates to agree on chapter headings to be included in the constitution. The National Convention is to lay down the guiding principles for drafting the new constitution. The National Convention, which opened on 9 January, reconvened one month after it was adjourned after only two days in session. Larry Yawgan reported that the reconvened convention appears to be taking place as planned according to diplomats.

There is no prospect of the constitution swiftly being drafted. The process is likely to take even longer than expected because the delegates are having to meet in panel discussions. People in the country said 18 papers were submitted at the convention and the papers contained 16 to 30 chapter headings. The delegates are to chose the chapter headings later. For instance, they have to discuss whether the term president or head of state should be employed.

After deciding on the chapter headings, the convention will discuss what must be included under each heading. Observers pointed out that the delegates are in a tight situation. The SLORC has demanded that the military be given a major role in the future politics of the country. This idea is not accepted by the majority of the people. Criticism on this matter is almost nonexistent at the Convention. At the plenary discussion, the National League for Democracy [NLD] said it cannot accept such a directive from the SLORC as it is not in accordance with true democracy. The NLD also urged U Aung Shwe, its leader, not to accept the role of the military.

The report also quoted diplomats as saying it is very clear when U Aung Shwe, the leader of NLD, said [words indistinct] the role of military will be discussed later at the Convention. It has also been learned that the majority of party members are dissatisfied with U Aung Shwe for his comment. The opposition along the Thai-Burmese border are also enraged because the NLD only referred to the inclusion of national races but did not mention federalism. It has also been learned that the educated delegates, who are attending, are becoming bored with the slow pace of the convention.

Reports from Rangoon said the delegates representing peasants are always intoxicated because of the availability of cheap liquor. The delegates also have to hold discussions with Military Intelligence, MI, upon their return to their hostels after the day-long sessions. The diplomats noted SLORC keeps the delegates under control and prevents opposition with this tactic.

The diplomats also believe that the new constitution has actually been drawn up and that the SLORC is dragging out the convention to divert the dissatisfaction of the world over its human rights violations and the detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Papers Criticize Thai Authorities for Nobel Visit

BK0603123793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1145 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Article by Aung Min in the 5 Mar LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN and KYEMON newspapers from "Today's Reading Material" program: "Aung Min Might Be Blamed If He Might Say So; a Gift of Gutha Pani Sutta, Buddhist teaching"]

[Excerpts] Nga Mya [General Mya of Karen National Union], leader of the Karen terrorist group and murderer, and his associates—those who have declared a racial campaign against Myanmar [Burmese] and an anti-Myanmar campaign, and who plan to establish a separate and independent Karen republic—are engaging in all kinds of unjust acts (?and vices).

In Burma, Nga Mya is detested by well-educated persons as well as casual laborers and children. They loathe Nga Mya and associates more than excreta. [passage omitted] Nga Mya and associates are hated and detested by the entire country, but he is being praised and defended by a group of gullible Nobel laureates, the BBC, Bertil Lintner, and a female journalist from Bangkok who claimed to be Nga Mya's pet.

It is not strange that in the country on the other side [Thailand] a group of reactionaries which is enjoying and sharing the spoils with Nga Mya is defending and protecting the interests of Nga Mya. It is not strange that they are beholden to Nga Mya as they receive gifts from Nga Mya.

What is strange is the group of gullible persons—Bishop Tutu and Dalai Lama. Philosophically, we can say that this group of Nobel laureates comprises only human beings who are characterized by greed, anger, delusion, pride, and jealousy. They could very well be trying to please some rich European countries which do not have a clear view toward Myanmar or they might well be expecting to boost their own popularity and fame. Furthermore, they might well be taking advantage of free trip to a beautiful country like Thailand with expectation of receiving contributions from the organizers of that mission.

As for the bespectacled Mahayanist monk [Dalai Lama], he might as well have his own scheme to kill two birds with one stone. Bishop Tutu and Dalai Lama are probably aware now of how the Myanmar people view their gullible visit as an interference in the internal affairs of their country. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, their visit caused a loss of face and embarassment to the country which received them, as that country which has the tradition of being a good neighbor has maintained friendly ties with Myanmar based on mutual respect. It was like ambrosia spoilt by falling excreta.

In that country, the senior military leaders, who remain as good friends toward Myanmar, the people of Myanmar and the Defense Services of Myanmar, criticized and blamed the authorities who had agreed to the ill-conceived visit of this gullible group. It shows the frank and honest character of veteran soldiers who do not pay much attention to diplomacy, pretention, and affectation. These veteran soldiers are no newcomers. They have historical tradition and rich experience and have been defending their country all their lives. They are aware that mutual friendship and understanding between the two countries would contribute to regional security as well as to each other's security.

However, some politicians who are solely concerned with public popularity are not worried about the long-term damage. It is not surprising that such politicians, who do not have much future anyway, like [words indistinct]. Our Defense Services and the people do not just look at the immediate horizon; they take the long-term future into consideration.

Being human, the author is offended by the authorities of that country who abbeted and encouraged this unfriendly act toward our country and regrets that they do not treat us like a friend. On the other hand, there are many good persons in that region, that we feel reluctant to react vehemently. In accordance with the Buddhist teaching, instead of reacting to the bad persons in that region with anger, we view them as pitiful, ungrateful, and fickle creatures, lacking in wisdom. [passage omitted]

Kachin Rebels Deny Peace Talks With SLORC

BK0403102993 Oslo Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] The Kachin Independence Organization [KIO] on 25 February refuted the continuing rumors and inaccuracies in some newspapers regarding peace talks with the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council].

The announcement said since the KIO's establishment in 1961, the KIO has struggled together with the Kachin people for equal rights for all nationalities of Burma, and for peace and democracy. It said these ethnic conflicts will never be resolved until and unless Burma gets democracy and that is why the KIO has worked in close cooperation with other revolutionary groups. Although the KIO is engaged in armed struggle, Burma's many problems can only be solved by political means. For that reason, all parties involved which desire genuine peace must hold talks on the political table.

The announcement also said that although the KIO had attended many peace talks before, none had been successful. The KIO's struggle for equal rights for all nationalities and Burma's prevailing struggle for democracy are linked and that is why genuine peace cannot be achieved with the involvement of only one ethnic group. It also said the KIO will never hold this kind of peace talks alone.

Junta Launches Agricultural Survey With UN Help

BK0203144493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1047 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Rangoon, March 2 (AFP)—Burma's military government has initiated an agricultural census with United Nations technical assistance to enable it to formulate future food and agriculture policies, official sources said Tuesday. The survey is underway in 296 rice growing townships in Burma which designated 1992 as the year for economic development, the sources said.

Current Burmese paddy production is estimated at more than 14 million tonnes, the equivalent of 8.75 million tonnes of rice, and announced plans are to boost production to more than 16 million tonnes during the next harvest. Four thousand teams are involved in the collection of agricultural data over 48 days, they said.

Despite the increases in cultivation, rice, Burma's staple, continues to suffer from unstable price fluctuations due, according to authorities here, to high freight charges, unnecessary hindrances, rampant cross-border smuggling and manipulation by unscrupulous traders.

Formerly a government monopoly, the rice trade has been privatised under the present military government with the trade ministry purchasing only one million tonnes to ensure regular supplies for service personnel and others.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

U.S. Airdrops Into Bosnia Termed 'Comedy'

BK0503140193 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Mar 93 p 12

[Editorial "Scattering Largesse"]

[Text] If the circumstances weren't so tragic, one could refer to the US airdrops of food into Bosnia as a comedy ...of errors. Leaflets announcing the airdrop went way off course, the food meant for embattled Muslims ended up in Serb hands (who would have a better appreciation of the pork) the targets earmarked for relief have fallen under heavy Serb fire.

Tragically, several residents in the Muslim enclave of Cerska were reported killed by Serb snipers when they ventured out to the town's outskirts in search of crates dropped by US relief planes. Asked about it Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Raradzic said, "If it falls between (ethnically-drawn territorial) lines, they may fight about the food." A callous statement from a man who dismisses his army's brutish brutality inflicted on innocent women and children as a "counter-offensive."

The US intention is good if it was to provide some form of relief for the stranded communities in eastern Bosnia-Hercegovina where UN food and medical convoys have been unable to reach because of Serbian obstruction. Unfortunately, the US has not developed sophisticated devices that would guarantee that the air-to-surface drops from planes flying at about 3,000 metres would reach the intended targets. It was a humanitarian response but it could have been more well-conceived, better planned and executed with greater commitment and urgency than what has been happening on the ground.

Officials of Bosnia's Muslim-led Government in Sarajevo said the airdrops appear to have been an almost total failure. US Defence Secretary Les Aspin said the airdrops which began on Sunday were "a symbolic effort to try and use leverage to get the ground flow of human aid going and in that it was a success."

Despite Aspin's pronouncement, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has accused the Serbs of continued obstruction. The actual story on the success or failure of the programme is yet to be ascertained, with the US saying that the air-dropped supplies did reach their marks, while UN officials quote ham operators as saying some food fell into Serb hands after about 10,000 people the food was meant to feed fled into the city mountains.

While the US fumbles around for options to appease its guilt over its non-interventionist role in Bosnia, Bosnian Serbs are reported to be massacring civilians and blocking UN efforts to evacuate 1,500 wounded and sick people in Cerska. UN officials and ham radio operators said Serb fighters were "plundering, killing and burning", with casualties reported among women and children.

It is imperative that more concerted effort is made to resolve the Bosnian nightmare before it comes too late. For while peace talks are ongoing in New York, and while the UN Secretary-General works out the mechanisms for an international war tribunal which will take another few months to materialise if at all intensified "ethnic cleansing" is happening. At least 700 people have been killed and thousands forced to flee burning villages since the Serbs began their assault on Cerska on Sunday. This is on top of the estimated 100,000 people killed in the civil war so far.

Bosnia's Muslims do not need more ointment for their stiff necks as they scour the skies for aid. They just need to survive.

PBS Efforts for Coalition Government Viewed

BK0603152293 Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 18 Feb 93 p 8

[Editorial: "The secret behind PBS and USNO maneuvering"]

[Text] The efforts made by Datuk Pairin Kitingan, president of PBS [Sabah United Party] to set up a coalition government with USNO [United Sabah National Organization], a component party of the BN [National Front], has become a hot topic of political discussion in our country. The mass media in Sabah gave wide coverage to the issue, viewed as one of the most interesting test cases facing two opposing parties, namely, the opposition PBS and the ruling UMNO [United Malays National Organization], which began its presence in Sabah in 1990.

In fact, the UMNO decided to set up its base in Sabah only after Pairin stabbed the BN on the back by withdrawing his party from the BN on the eve of the 1990 general elections. Since the incident, BN-PBS relations have been strained to the extent that BN has ruled out the return of PBS into its fold.

It is increasingly clear that PBS will soon have to face UMNO in another elections because Pairin needs to have a new mandate from the people in Sabah. This prospect has made the PBS anxious and it has begun to seek ways to obtain the assistance of USNO so as to cope with the UMNO challenge as well as retain its power in Sabah.

Even though USNO President Datuk Amir Kahar Tun Datuk Mustapha has given his assurance that the party will remain with the BN, some USNO members in the State Legislative Assembly are reported to have been attracted by the PBS overtures. Pairin is also aware that it is impossible for the 11 USNO assembly members to join UMNO before the next general elections due to the existence of Sabah internal laws.

To win the next general elections, the PBS continues to depend on the solid support of 32 percent of ethnic Malays, or 51.3 percent of Muslim voters, because the party is concerned that UMNO and USNO will try to woo these voters. The PBS is also worried that the BN will try to win the hearts of the ethnic Chinese (23 percent of the voters) and the ethnic Kadazan (30 percent of the voters)

Despite the PBS' strategic considerations, support for UMNO in Sabah is obviously getting stronger and this will deal a serious blow to PBS in the next elections. Political observers also noted that Pairin's move to woo USNO at a time when the national leaders were busy with the issue of constitutional amendment to remove the rulers' legal immunity was tantamount to fishing in troubled waters.

However, Pairin's action did not at all affect the BN, as could be seen from the remarks made by Deputy Prime Minister Ghafara Baba to the effect that BN was ready anytime Pairin wanted to hold elections in Sabah. This means that the BN is capable of facing any challenge in that state.

Royal Letters Opposing Amendments Publicized

BK0503133493 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Mar 93 pp 1,2

[By Shamsul Akmar]

[Text] Kota Baru, Wed—The Sultan of Kelantan today made public what was purported to be a letter he wrote to the Sultan of Kedah appointing him as his proxy to the Febraury 11 Conference of Rulers meeting, with specific instructions to register his opposition to the constitutional amendments.

The letter, dated Febraury 8 was alleged to have been handed to the Kedah Ruler by the Kelantan Sultan's private secretary Fuad Hassan at Istana Negara [National Palace] on the same day.

At a press conference here today, Fuad distributed copies of the letter bearing the Sultan of Kelantan's signature.

However, there was nothing to indicate that it was a letter to the Sultan of Kedah. Also missing were the normal salutations. It looked more like an announcement regarding the appointment.

Fuad also distributed copies of a letter which he said was written by the Sultan of Kedah to the Kelantan Ruler.

In this letter, dated February 15, the Sultan of Kedah thanked his Kelantan counterpart for the appointment and subsequently explained the outcome of the February 11 meeting.

The Sultan of Kelantan said that by distributing the letters, the people could see for themselves that he had objected to the amendments and not as claimed by Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman.

The Sultan added that he also wanted to prove that he was telling the truth with regard to his proxy to oppose the amendments.

Although it was unusual for a ruler to make public a letter from a brother ruler the Kelantan Sultan said he was compelled to do so because of the current controversy.

The sultan said Abu Talib should be doing something better during the fasting month, instead of trying to confuse the rakyat [subjects] over what had actually occurred.

The sultan said the rulers had their own mind and were mature enough to resolve problems despite having to rule their own states.

The Rulers were like a family unit, and more like brothers, fathers and sons, he said.

In the February 8 letter, the Sultan of Kelantan said he was giving his proxy to the Kedah Ruler and, if necessary, to vote on his behalf at the 160th Conference of Rulers meeting on February 11 at Istana Negara.

It further stated that the Sultan of Kedah, in using his (Sultan of Kelantan's) proxy, must show his opposition to any move which sought to amend any Article in the Constitution including Articles 32, 38, 42, 63, 72 and 181, which affected the privileges, position, honour and dignity of the rulers.

In the February 15 letter, the Sultan of Kedah thanked the Kelantan Ruler for trusting him with the proxy.

However, in the letter, the Sultan of Kedah said that after receiving an indepth explanation on the amendments, including the changes made to them, and a lengthy discussion with other rulers, they decided to agree to the changes.

He then used the proxy to give the Sultan of Kelantan's consent to the amendments.

The Sultan of Kedah said he fully believed that the consent given by the rulers to the amendments was in good faith and with the realisation that it was the best way to ensure that the rulers continued to have the position, privileges and sovereignty which they enjoyed at present.

Abu Talib was yesterday quoted as saying that the Sultan of Kedah said that the Kelantan Ruler had personally asked him (Sultan of Kedah) to support the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1993 on his behalf at the February 11 meeting.

He said this was conveyed to him by the Sultan of Kedah in a telephone conversation on Monday [1 Mar].

On claims by Abu Talib that he too heard the Sultan of Kelantan supporting the amendments, Fuad said Abu Talib told the rulers present that he could not provide the draft then because the Cabinet had not seen it yet.

In Alor Star, Syed Unan Al-Mashri Syed Abdullah, private secretary to the Sultan of Kedah, said the Sultan's office would make a statement later.

Minister: Parliament To Meet on Amendments

BK0503153093 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Mar 93 p 2

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Wed—The Cabinet has decided that the special meeting of Parliament on March 8, 9 and 10 will proceed as scheduled as there is no reason for it to be postponed or cancelled.

It made its decision at its meeting today.

Law Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said the procedures followed to convene the meeting were in accordance with the Article 66(4A) and (4B) of the Federal Constitution.

The cabinet also discussed the preparations for the meeting although the Sultan [state ruler] of Kelantan had questioned its validity.

"There is no reason for the government to change the dates," he told reporters in his office.

The Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] will begin with the second and third readings of the Constitution (Amendement) Bill, 1993, as mentioned by the Speaker Tan Sri Mohamed Zahir Ismail, because the bill is not a new one.

Asked to comment on the Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman's statement yesterday that the Sultan of Kedah had validly exercised the proxy given to him by the Sultan of Kelantan to support the bill on his behalf at the Conference of Rulers' meeting on February 11, he said,

"The Attorney's statement was clear and explained what really happened."

He said that from Abu Talib's statement the people would now be able to see for themselves the truth and whether the Sultan of Kelantan was giving a true picture.

He said it was pointless to prolong the issue as the government had adhered to all the relevant procedures and the legal process in making the amendments.

On the reaction of the non-Malays to the amendments, Syed Hamid said it was clear that they understood and supported the amendments because they believed in parliamentary democracy and the constitutional monarchy.

He said their support indicated that they were not being communal but considered themselves as Malaysians.

He said even the DAP [Democratic Action Party] had indicated that it would be supporting the bill in Parliament and this showed that the party saw the truth. On the other hand, PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party] was confused and was playing politics and the religious sentiments of the Malays while Semangat 46 [Spirit of 1946] was "bankrupt of ideas." [passage omitted]

Special Parliament Sitting Opens

BK0803071693 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] The Lower House of Parliament holds a two-day special sitting starting today to discuss modifications to the Constitutional Amendments Bill 1993 limiting the legal immunity of the Malay rulers. The Upper House meets on Wednesday.

His Majesty the King Sultan Azlan Shah has returned the bill after the previous sitting to Parliament. Amendments to the original bill have been agreed upon between the Rulers' Council and the Government.

The modifications, among other things, provide that the Malay ruler facing a court proceedings will have to take leave until the end of the trial. A regent will be appointed to carry out the duties of the Malay ruler concerned. If the ruler is convicted and sentenced to more than a day's jail, he will have to step down from the throne, unless he is pardoned.

Another provision states that no criminal or civil proceedings can be initiated against any ruler without the consent of the Attorney General. This is to prevent the rulers from being victimized by the actions of irresponsible elements.

Meanwhile, Article 181-2 of the Constitution that was amended during the previous special sitting of Parliament will be reamended.

It will now read that the ruler cannot be charged in any court except the special court to be established. However, the rulers will face the same set of laws faced by the common men and the sentences will also be same.

Kelantan Ruler: No Agreement on Amendments

BK0803085193 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 5 Mar 93 p 2

[By Shamsul Akmar]

[Text] Kota Baru, Thurs—The Sultan [state ruler] of Kelantan insists that he had never in any way expressed support for the Constitution (Amendment) 1993 Bill with changes, either on February 10 during the Conference of Rulers' meeting, or during an informal meeting at Istana Johor [Palace] in Kuala Lumpur on February 15.

His private secretary, Encik Fuad Hassan, said during the 160th Conference of Rulers' meeting on February 10 at Istana Negara, the Sultan was asked by fellow rulers whether he agreed to the bill with some changes. "The Sultan replied that he could not give his support as neither he nor the other Rulers had been given the opportunity to view the draft of the bill which had some changes added to it.

"The Sultan did say that he would express his support to the Bill only if Article 181 (2) of the Federal Constitution was not included in the amendments," Fuad said today.

He was commenting on a statement by the Sultan of Kedah who said the Sultan of Kelantan had expressed his support for the bill when asked on February 10 during the Conference of Rulers' meeting.

The Kedah Sultan also said that he again asked the Sultan of Kelantan on his stand on the bill when they met with two other rulers and two regents during an informal meeting at Istana Johor on February 15.

The Sultan of Kedah said the Kelantan Sultan stuck to his February 10 stand, that he supported the bill and this was heard by witnesses.

Fuad said the Sultan of Kelantan insisted that he was not asked by the Kedah Sultan on the former's stand on the bill.

"The Sultan only said that he had asked the Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman for the draft of the bill with the changes."

"The other rulers present also asked Abu Talib for the draft to which the latter said that he could not issue them with one as it had not been presented to the Cabinet."

Fuad also said that both letters made public by the Kelantan palace yesterday were authentic.

Kelantan Sultan Criticized for Disputing Meeting

BK0803093993 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 27 Feb 93 p 10

[Editorial: "A New Surprise From the Sultan of Kelantan"]

[Text] After the issue of royal immunity almost subsided, the sultan of Kelantan suddenly struck the gong claiming that the decision of the 161st meeting (special) of the Rulers Conference on 11 February regarding the 1993 Constitution (Amendment) Bill was legally null and void because he was not present and did not consent to the proposal to limit the immunity of the Malay rulers. Should the consent given by other rulers have been declared null and void just because he was not present? Indeed, the statement of the sultan of Kelantan is not only awkward, but it has even embarrassed other Malay rulers. The statement has directly affected the prestige of other rulers who were present at the meeting and who understand the spirit of the proposed amendments.

The sultan of Kelantan also denied having cast his vote through any other ruler as a proxy, while the nation was told that he was represented by the sultan of Kedah in the voting process. It is very difficult to believe the denial of the sultan of Kelantan because the consent was enshrined in a joint declaration signed by the attorney general and the keeper of the Rulers' Seal. The sultan of Kelantan cannot blame anybody but himself for his failure to attend the meeting. There was no reason for his absence because the meeting was very important. Of course, it would be impolite to criticize the decision of a meeting that we did not attend. Attorney General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman was also surprised at the statement of the sultan because as far as he knew, the sultan cast his vote through the sultan of Kedah as a proxy.

We consider the statement that the sultan of Kelantan made at Balai Besar Palace yesterday afternoon an attempt to test the patience of certain parties during the fasting month of Ramadan. He questions something that is not questioned by other people and paints a picture that the rulers made the decision while under a state of pressure. In no way were the rulers under pressure because they had a choice. They could accept, reject, or amend the draft bill. The rulers made "amendments to the amendments." This means that compromises are made in dealing with non-principled matters. [sentence as published]

No one can answer questions posed to the sultan of Kedah who is said to be the proxy of the sultan of Kelantan. If necessary, the Rulers Conference may have to answer the question posed by the sultan of Kelantan because he said in his statement that it was "very impossible" for the Malay rulers to make a decision on the issue in a very short period of time without serious and thorough consideration. If we accepted the statement, this would project an image that relations between the rulers and the government had been completely broken and that there had been no way for negotiations. There are questions that should be answered. What is the purpose of the statement of the sultan of Kelantan? Why was the statement made 15 days after the meeting of the Rulers Conference?

Legally speaking, we do not see any flaws in the meeting because the two sides agreed to and signed the Joint Declaration by the Rulers Conference and the government transmitted it via the mass media. Sultan Azlan Shah as the paramount ruler had even returned to parliament the 1993 Constitution (Amendment) Bill passed on 19 January plus amendments approved by the rulers. The documents will be tabled and discussed at a special parliamentary session next month.

Casting a vote through a representative is not something awkward provided it is not against the Constitution. Casting a vote through a representative means that he or she will abide by a majority decision made either by or without voting. We believe that only the sultan of Kelantan rejected the amendments. The sultan made his stance clear through his personal secretary Fuad Hassan on 14 February. We respect his views because no one can advise him or try to change his firm stance. For us, the issue of constitutional amendments has subsided. The ratification of the draft bill in accordance with procedures is just a matter of time. We are confident that the people, particularly Muslims, want to concentrate on spending the fasting month as positively as possible.

Singapore

Russian Vice President Arrives for Talks 7 Mar

BK0703114693 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] The Russian Vice President General Aleksandr Rutskoy has arrived in Singapore for a two-day visit aimed at boosting bilateral trade and economic ties. He is the first top Russian leader to come here since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Gen. Rutskoy was received at Changi Airport by the minister of state for finance and communications, Commodore Teo Chee Hean. The vice president is accompanied by his wife; the minister of foreign economic relations, Mr. Sergey Glaziyev; the agriculture minister, Mr. Viktor Khlystun; and senior officials. Members of the local Russian business community here were also at the airport to welcome the delegation. [passage indistinct]

This evening, Gen. Rutskoy will hold talks with Mr. Goh Chok Tong. Their discussions are expected to cover bilateral ties, developments in Russia, as well as [words indistinct]. Later, the Russian delegation will be hosted a dinner by Mr. and Mrs. Goh.

Goh, Vice President Rutskoy Speak at Dinner

BK0703152693 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Singapore is prepared to help Russia build closer economic links with the Asia-Pacific region. The prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, made the offer at the dinner hosted in honor of the visiting Vice President General Alaksandr Rutskoy.

Mr. Goh noted that there are bright prospects for closer cooperation between Russia and the region. The Asia-Pacific countries are in a period of rapid economic growth and technological advancement. Russia, on the other hand, has vast resources and is a potentially rich market. It can also tap into the Asia-Pacific region with new markets for its technology and the sources of capital. Mr. Goh stressed that peace and stability are essential for Russia to attract the form of investments needed to revatilize the Russian economy.

Singapore welcomes Russia efforts to reintegrate its economy into the world economy. It likes to see a smooth and successful transition to a peaceful and prosperous Russia. Mr. Goh noted that Vice President Rutskoy played a crucial role in the reform of the Russian Federation. Gen. Rutskoy is responsible for two important areas—the restoration of law and order and the reform of the agricultural sector. Mr. Goh said the experience of ASEAN and several other East Asian economies had also shown that success in agricultural reforms can boost the country's prospects to work up economic growth.

The prime minister noted that bilateral relations are sound and problem-free. He said Gen. Rutskoy's visit opens a new chapter in relations between the two countries.

In his speech, Gen. Rutskoy said he hopes the cooperation between Russia and Singapore will be conducive for building up security and confidence in Asia and the Pacific. He said the Russian leadership wants to gradually involve the country in the unfolding economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region. Russia has placed great importance on fostering relations with ASEAN. Russia believes its long-term purposes, are in many aspects, compatible with the objectives pursued by ASEAN. He said his country highly appreciates ASEAN's contributions to enhance stability and economic integration in the region.

The vice president said Russia admires Singapore's profoundly though-out management of social economic practises. He said his country appreciates Singapore's support for the democratic transformation and social economic reforms in Russia. This is conducive to having extensive bilateral dialogue at the top level and for both countries to work within the framework of international fora.

Rutskoy Departs

BK0803124693 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Summary from reception] Russian Vice President General Aleksandr Rutskoy has urged Singapore investors to invest in Russia now. During his meeting with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong last night, several proposals were made to take advantage of Russian technology. Gen. Rutskoy called on President Wee Kim Wee at the presidential palace this afternoon. He has left for home.

Sutrisno's Candidacy for Indonesian VP Hailed

BK0503034893 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Mar 93 p 28

[Editorial: "Try's Choice as Good Sign]

[Text] In an impressive display of consensus, all the political factions represented in Indonesia's highest legislative body, the People's Consultative Assembly, have supported Gen. Try Sutrisno's candidacy for vice president. This development almost makes certain his election although President Suharto's approval would be needed after his own reelection as president has taken place on March 10. The support for Gen. Try's nomination marks an important milestone in Indonesia's political development as the country begins its steady transition to a new generation of leaders. His candidacy reflects the strong bid by the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) to strengthen its political influence at a time when the country has to face the crucial question of political succession. Mr. Suharto's sixth five-year term of office is generally expected to be his last. In case of ill-health, political succession could become a more immediate issue. If elected as vice president, Gen. Try would gain an inside track in any race for succession. Even if Mr. Suharto completes his next term of office, it is speculated that the vice president's role would be more than ceremonial this time, giving Gen. Try the opportunity to show his abilities and consolidate his political stature, thereby enhancing his prospects of becoming Mr. Suharto's successor.

Many observers see Gen. Try as the likeliest person to succeed Mr. Suharto, not just because of their assessment of his chances, now being the vice presidential favourite, but also because of his suitability for the job. Mr. Suharto would have the final say on the succession issue. But this may well work in favour of Gen. Try, who served for four years as Mr. Suharto's adjutant in the 1970's and for whom the President is thought to have a soft spot. Gen. Try's election would ensure political continuity, an important factor when the country has to prepare for the post-Suharto era within the New Order that establishes national identity and provides the basic structure for maintaining stability and promoting development. Regarded a consensus seeker, Gen. Try's approach would be indispensable to help manage the affairs of a country where significant economic, social, and political changes have taken place since the New Order was introduced by Mr. Suharto some 25 years ago. His election as vice president, together with Mr Suharto's reelection, would be the right combination to ensure Indonesia's stability and progress towards becoming an advanced economy and polity by early next century. Gen. Try's wide contacts with regional leaders, which he established during his term as ABRI's chief, would also help to further strengthen Indonesia's ties with Singapore and other ASEAN partners, firming up the long-term prospects of regional stability.

The nomination clearly suggests that a promising start has been made towards handling the succession issue. But the new generation of leaders, both military and civilian, has still to work out a new equation in preparation for the post-Suharto years. Civil-military relations will play a crucial role in shaping the country's future. ABRI cannot risk underrating the importance of new economic, social, and political forces. Mr. Suharto stressed recently that no single political power, however strong, could effectively govern the country. Earlier, he had advised military commanders to resist any narrow military or security perspective when dealing with the country's problems. Gen. Try's nomination for vice president should set to rest any fears that ABRI may have had of losing political influence. This should help to bring about an enduring cohesion in civil-military relations, which the country needs to march confidently into the 21st century. Indeed, once elected, Gen. Try would be in a good position to help bridge civil-military relations, having been backed by both civilian and military leaders for the post of vice president.

APEC Granted International Organization Privileges

BK0803121793 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 5 Mar 93 p 47

[Text] The APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] secretariat in Singapore has been accorded the usual privileges of an international organisation, including diplomatic immunity.

The minister for foreign affairs, Mr Wong Kan Seng, yesterday signed an agreement relating to the immunities and privileges of the secretariat with Mr. William Bodde, executive director of the APEC secretariat.

The provisions are in accordance with the International Organisations (Immunities & Privileges) Act.

Some of the privileges covered by the act include immunity from suit and legal process, as well as exemption or relief from taxes.

APEC stands for the three-year-old Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation grouping—comprising Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the ASEAN economies, the United States, Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, and Hongkong.

Singapore was chosen as the site for the secretariat at the 4th APEC ministerial meeting in Bangkok last September.

The secretariat is currently located at Alexandra Point in Alexandra Road. Its role is to coordinate APEC programmes and activities, provide technical and analytical support and manage APEC's finances.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Stresses CPP To Recognize Poll Results

BK0503160393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC], held a working meeting with their excellencies the ambassadors and special envoys from various embassies in Cambodia at the Council of Ministers office on the morning of 5 March. The discussion focused on preparations for the elections and other important issues concerning the political and socioeconomic situation in Cambodia.

Commenting on the upcoming elections, H.E. Hun Sen said the forthcoming polls would go ahead as planned as diverse important works have already been organized and voter registration and refugee repatriation have already been completed. He added: We should also be ready to deal with the future complicated situation since a party, which has refused to take part in the implementation of the accord, has carried out military activities that could provoke fighting during the elections. We should take a number of measures for the forthcoming polls.

H.E. Hun Sen further said: The government is now facing difficulties that have to be ironed out. The SOC has used its self-defense right to maintain a balance of force. However, our implementation of this right in order to protect the people's lives and ensure tranquility for the elections has been called a violation. And on the issue of security, he said: The situation has improved after the crack down on acts of robbery. Anyway, the worrisome issue is that some factions could resort to harassment for the purpose of hindering the election process.

On the socioeconomic situation, H.E. Hun Sen pointed out the shortage of food supplies caused by floods, drought, and refugee repatriation constitutes a heavy responsibility for the present government and a hardship for a government to come. Commenting on some factions' objection to aid from the World Bank and World Development Bank, H.E. Hun Sen said: The aid is for agriculture development aimed at stabilizing the people's living conditions, but not for strengthening the structure of the incumbent administration.

Concerning the prospects for the current situation, H.E. Hun Sen told the diplomats that the SOC Government has no contradictory view on the Paris accord, but we can never become a hostage of anybody. The elections should go ahead as planned since we already have prepared for them. The outcome of the elections should be recognized because the polls are organized by the United Nations, which will (?count) the ballots as well. As such, anyone rejecting the election result would be regarded as the United Nations' opponent. H.E. Hun Sen further said: The SOC has already proclaimed that it will recognize the poll result and that after the elections and the formation of a new government, sovereignty should [words indistinct] across Cambodia. No faction can declare its sovereignty over any part of Cambodia.

On setting up a new government with the participation of a number of political parties after the elections, H.E. Hun Sen pointed out that two issues should be [words indistinct], that is the issue of conditions and the issue of goodwill. Concerning the conditions, it is the party receiving more votes, which should form a government. As for the issue of goodwill, it is asked whether the victorious party has the intention of allowing other parties to join it. Although it will be joined by several other parties, the government should not be called a coalition government, but a Cambodian Government. It is not fair to allow the party refusing to take part in the elections to join the government.

H.E. Hun Sen disclosed that so far the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] has closely cooperated with 13 political parties and that what is important in the cooperation is sincerity. Likewise, he added, it is not possible for a married couple to live together if the husband had many wives or the wife had many husbands.

With regard to the issue of three Vietnamese nationals, H.E. Hun Sen said they are all immigrants, not military forces. At present, the SOC and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] are jointly finding ways to resolved the issue by taking into consideration both legal and human right aspects.

Commentary Criticizes UNTAC's 'Empty Promises'

BK0703044093 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Station commentary: "Examining the fact that Akashi has been forced to admit that there are more members of the Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia. What is the truth about this?"]

[Text] After UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] announced that it had found three Vietnamese soldiers hiding among the puppet troops, the local and foreign public laughed saying that for 16 months the UNTAC leaders have not verified the Vietnamese presence and have defended the Vietnamese in order to stay on in Cambodia; and now they say that three Vietnamese soldiers have been found in Cambodia.

On this issue, the local and foreign public have been applying great pressure on the UNTAC leaders to the point that Akashi has been forced to admit that there are more members of the Vietnamese aggressors forces hiding in Cambodia. Why has Akashi been forced to make this admission?

The Cambodian nation and people and Cambodian national resistance forces clealy realize that:

1. This is a deceptive theatrical farce to lessen pressure from the local and foreign public and to show that UNTAC is making efforts to check the Vietnamese presence;

2. This is an announcement to mislead people for now and then to bury this issue of the Vietnamese in Cambodia, as the UNTAC leaders have been doing up to now.

The local and foreign public has witnessed and is clearly aware that for 16 months the UNTAC leaders have not verified the Vietnamese presence but instead have colluded with the Vietnamese and the puppets to maintain the Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia. They keep on saying that there are no Vietnamese, there are no Vietnamese. The UNTAC leaders have collaborated with the Vietnamese aggressors and Vietnam's puppets to grossly violate and trample on the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. UNTAC has instead implemented an altered agreement with the strategy and tactic of having only one side and of maintaining the Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia to prop up Vietnam's puppet regime so that the latter can stay on and be the master of Cambodia and the Cambodian people, and through this, to allow Vietnam to continue occupying Cambodia forever.

Everyone knows that the UNTAC leaders have said they would take measures to deal with the murders of the Cambodian people and members of various political parties carried out by the Vietnamese and puppets. However, these were just empty promises; nothing was solved. After the announcement there was nothing. Thus, the people know UNTAC's nature. They know that UNTAC, the Vietnamese aggressors, and Vietnam's puppets have only one goal and that is to carry out maneuvers and all kinds of activities to legitimize Vietnam's aggression and occupation in Cambodia.

The UNTAC leaders already have a bad reputation. The UNTAC leaders, the Vietnamese aggressors, and Vietnam's puppets cannot fool anyone. The UNTAC leaders, including Akashi and General Sanderson, have said that there are no Vietnamese in Cambodia, that Vietnam withdrew in 1989, and that the Vietnamese in Cambodia have the right to vote, and so on. The UNTAC leaders have all the time cooperated to defend the Vietnamese.

As a matter of fact, when the Cambodian people have united and fought the Vietnamese aggressors to defend the Cambodian nation, territory, and race, the UNTAC leaders have come forth to defend the Vietnamese and set up a tribunal to judge the Cambodian people, who are the victims of Vietnam's act of aggression. As for those millions of Cambodian people who died during Vietnam's aggression and occupation for the past 14 years, the UNTAC leaders did not give a hoot about this. They only defend the Vietnamese.

These are very very bad activities by UNTAC toward the Cambodian people. The fact is that the Vietnamese aggressor forces are everywhere in Cambodia and UNTAC has done nothing to check them. The UNTAC leaders and bad elements collaborating with Vietnam have only joined Vietnam in repeating the latter's pretense that Vietnam has already withdrawn its aggressor forces from Cambodia.

In fact, currently in Cambodia, old Vietnamese forces are still present while new Vietnamese nationals have been flowing into the country. The Vietnamese are in Phnom Penh, the cities, and the provinces. These Vietnamese are members of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], of trade unions, peasants' associations, women's associations, and youth leagues of the communist Vietnamese. The Vietnamese forces are hidden; 50,000 members of these forces have been drawn into the puppet forces and puppet administration. Apart from this, there are about 10,000 Vietnamese soldiers ranging in rank from second lieutenant to major who play the role of core groups and hidden elements administering villages, communes, districts, and provinces controlled by the puppets.

These Vietnamese have set up committees and branches of the CPV to lead all sectors and all levels of Vietnam's puppets. As for the Vietnamese aggressor forces flowing into Cambodia, they are over 2 million strong. These forces are being systematically organized into big and small units in the form of companies, enterprises, and traders everywhere. They are all administered by the party branches and youth leagues of the communist Vietnamese in accordance with the policy and strategy of aggression of the Hanoi Vietnamese.

In sum, the Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia at present are 2.4 million strong, including 1.3 million already holding Cambodian identity cards and registered for the elections by UNTAC. The Vietnamese aggressor forces are currently working with Vietnam and the puppets to launch offensives against the resistance forces and to murder with impunity the Cambodian people and rob them of their property. Furthermore, the Vietnamese aggressor forces and puppets are cooperating to constantly carry out political terrorist and fascist activities to threaten, intimidate, and murder the Cambodian people and members of various political parties.

This is why the local and foreign public is really laughing because after 16 months in Cambodia UNTAC announced that it has found three Vietnamese soldiers and Akashi has been forced to admit that there are more Vietnamese troops in Cambodia.

Is this announcement just an empty one after which nothing will be done? This is no different from Akashi's promises to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, to take this or that measure to eliminate the brutal activities of murdering the Cambodian people and members of various political parties—particularly the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party—carried out by the Vietnamese and their puppets. Akashi has made empty promises and has solved nothing.

Phnom Penh Urges Measures Against Thai Traders

BK0603091593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Station commentary: "One Must Not Forgive Those Who Have Violated the Ban on Export of Logs and Gems From Cambodia"]

[Text] According to Thai news sources, although the log export ban has now been in effect for more than two months and the gems export ban has been in effect for nearly a week, Thai traders still continue to violate them. The sources said that at present Thai traders are still smuggling out Cambodian logs and are setting up hundreds of saw mills in Khmer Rouge-controlled areas.

According to the BANGKOK POST, for the first 16 days of January, many of Cambodia's logs were sent to Thailand and ASEAN countries. Of these, 43,000 cubic meters were further sold to other countries by Thai traders. Moreover, Thai traders have also exploited gems in over 300 areas and sent truckloads of the soil dug out of these areas for sifting in Thailand. This is an outright violation by Thai traders of the Supreme National Council's [SNC] bans on log and gems exports from Cambodia. Such activities by the Thai traders also violate Resolution No. 792 of the UN Security Council.

It is widely-known that the ban on log exports went into effect on 1 January 1993 and that on the export of gems on 1 March 1993. The main aim of these bans is to impose economic sanctions on Democratic Kampuchea/Khmer Rouge, which have refused to implement the Paris agreement that they signed on 23 October 1991.

Thailand, which is also a signatory of the Paris agreement, has repeatedly announced that it would respect all resolutions of the UN Security Council and that it supported the Cambodian SNC. However, the latest activities of Thai traders seem to run against the honorable statement of their own government.

The continued exporting of log and gems from Pailin constitues a great encouragement for the Khmer Rouge, who have refused to fulfill their obligation according to all clauses of the agreement and have even committed gross and barbarous violations against the State of Cambodia [SOC], which has fully abided by the agreement.

According to an assessment by some foreign observers and Western journalists, the gem and log trade earns the Khmer Rouge hundreds of millions of dollars each month. Everyone knows very well that the Khmer Rouge do not have to feed teachers, health personnel, civilian administrators, and road and bridge workers as the SOC faction has to do. Therefore, the Khmer Rouge have used this income to strengthen their military might in order to fulfill their strategic goal, that is, to return to power and massacre the people again.

Thailand's involvement in the continued export of huge quantities of logs and gems not only furnishes the Khmer Rouge with arms, ammunition, and food supplies for killing the people and destroying our peace plan, but it also seriously affects the Cambodian people's natural resources.

During the past two decades and more, due to destructive fighting and particularly due to the Khmer Rouge's cruel rule, Cambodia's forests have decreased rapidly, greatly affecting the natural environment. Since Thailand shares land and sea borders with Cambodia, it certainly cannot avoid this natural change.

We think that Thailand, as a developing country, understands this problem well; and we hope that Thailand will take effective measures to cope with it. Moreover, we think that as a neighboring country, Thailand ought to look at long-term friendship and cooperation between the two countries rather than its immediate interests.

Apart from that, we are confident that UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] which in its present mandate must spend nearly 2 billion dollars and which has more than 20,000 civilian, military, and police personnel, will certainly take some strict measures to completely halt the log and gem smuggling to Thailand.

Certainly, due to the fact that the common borders between Cambodia and Thailand are long and have a complicated terrain, and with the Khmer Rouge refusing to give cooperation in areas under their control, the UNTAC might face many obstacles in its inspection work. But for the honor of the United Nations and the prestige of the UN Security Council, we hope that the UNTAC will strengthen the efficiency of its border checkpoints. We are convinced that the UN Security Council's resolution will certainly be (?implemented effectively). On the contrary, if Resolution No. 792 is not implemented effectively and if they continue to curry favor with the Khmer Rouge criminals, we think that no matter how many more resolutions the UN Security Council issues, they will all be ineffective.

Nevertheless, we still believe in the full power of the UNTAC, which will certainly not allow the one who respects the agreement to fall victim to the Khmer Rouge. Peace and freedom must conquer the warmongers and criminals.

Khmer Rouge Attacks in Siem Reap Reported

BK0503073793 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0406 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 5 March (SPK)—In just two days, Khmer Rouge rebels have killed eight villagers and wounded 21 others, said a report from Siem Reap Province.

On 25 February, the attackers used land mines to blow up a vehicle, killing six passengers and wounding six others. The incident occurred at 0800 on the route linking the two districts of Kralanh and Chong Kal in the sector [words indistinct].

At 2205 on 26 February, 30 Khmer Rouge elements from the 980th division infiltrated Tram Neak area in the vicinity of the Siem Reap provincial town and committed robbery. There, they killed two villagers and wounded eight others and stole the people's belongings before retreating.

On the same day, a dozen Khmer Rouge guerrillas used B-40 rocket launchers and DK-72 guns in an attack on the sector at coordinates 46/32. Five civilians were wounded in the incident.

Fighting Reported in Stoung District

BK0503014693 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] There are reports that the commander of the 4th Military Region of the puppets, Long Sopheap, dispatched tanks, mortars, DK guns, and artillery pieces to assist troops in Stoung District town. However, they were attacked by people, Cambodian soldiers, and puppet officials with the collaboration of the national resistance forces, forcing them to recklessly flee from villages and communes around Stoung and from the Stoung District seat.

The reports clearly say that the Ngor-Vor [Cambodian alphabet] 3, district troops, Kompong Thom provincial troops, and the Kompong Cham provincial forces of the 2d Military Region all fled Stoung. These troops were very angry with the Yuon aggressors and leaders of the Yuon's puppets who sent them to fight and die on the latter's behalf without food and medicine. They turned their guns against the Yuon aggressors and the puppet leaders, killing or wounding a number of them.

The reports add that the exchange of fire between Cambodian soldiers and officials of the Yuon's puppet administration on one side, and the Yuon on the other, affected the villages in the area. A number of people were killed or wounded, houses were burned, cattle killed, and a large amount of the people's other property damaged.

UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] has said nothing about this incident.

KR Attacks Reported in Siem Reap, Kompong Thom

BK0603034693 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] According to sources at the committee for military cooperation with the United Nations, from 2120 to 2130 on 2 March, between 20 and 30 Khmer Rouge rebels attacked an UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] office and also most brutally and barbarously robbed our people in Ankrong village, Kantrang Commune, in Siem Reap District [Siem Reap Province].

In Kompong Thom Province on 3 March from 0200, Khmer Rouge rebels launched an infantry attack, supported by artillery fire, against Stoung District town and (Heng Koul Bridge) in Sreng Bei village along National Route 6 from Stoung District town to Pralay commune. The sources have not yet specified damage.

Delegation Leaves for Funeral of Sihanouk's Aunt

BK0603065193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] At 0800 on 6 March, a high-ranking delegation of the party and government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] led by His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, chairman of the SOC Council of State, and wife, left Phnom Penh for Beijing, PRC, to attend the funeral of Princess (Norodom Tep Kalya), alias Mom, aunt of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who died on Monday 1 March at the age of 81. Those accompanying the delegation to Beijing include: Tep Vong, patriarch of the Mahanikay Buddhist sect, and Bonzes Lim Nget and Um Sum.

Among those seeing the delegation off at Pochentong airport were: Their Excellencies Bou Thang and Chea Soth, members of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee; H.E. General Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and defense minister; H.E. Mat Li, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the National Assembly and of the Party Central Committee's Control Commission; H.E. Nguon Nhel, agriculture minister; H.E. Ney Pena, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Party Central Committee's Control Commission; H.E. Sim Ka, chairman of the Phnom Penh City party committee and people's committee; H.E. General Ke Kimyan, first deputy defense minister and chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces; ministers and deputy ministers; and directors general and deputy directors general of many state establishments.

Indonesia

Official: Opposition Party's Proposal Unacceptable

BK0603092493 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0815 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Jakarta, March 6 (ANTARA)—Government-backed Golkar [Functional Group] faction [FKP] secretary Akbar Tanjung said here on Saturday that the proposal of the Indonesian Democratic Party faction [FPDI] on general elections in the form of draft decree and draft resolution cannot be accepted.

"It can only be listed in the comissions sessions' minutes, but not in the People's Consultatives Assembly (MPR) session," he said. On the tentative decrees discussed by the comissions, the FKP agreed to the results of the eighth plenum of the MPR, which formed Commission A in charge of discussing draft State Guidelines Policy (GBHN), Commission B on non-GBHN draft, and Commission C on the accountability report of the President/MPR mandate holder. He said that the MPR factions are given the authority to discuss draft proposals, including those of the general elections. The FPDI has proposed a draft on the amendment of MPR decree III/MPR/1978 on general elections.

"We are not ruling out the possibility of discussing that matter but is the 1978 MPR decree not enough?" Akbar Tanjung questioned.

Asked on the possibility of MPR session to decide the FPDI proposal by voting, Tanjung said let's wait and see. "If we run short of time while a decision is to be made, voting will be held," he added.

Suharto Agrees to Presidential Renomination

BK0803060193 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0500 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Retired General Haji Mohamed Suharto has expressed his readiness to be renominated as candidate for president of the Republic of Indonesia for the 1993-1998 period. Suharto gave his consent for the renomination during a consultative meeting with five factions of the People's Consultative Assembly, MPR, at the Presidential Palace, Cendana Road, Jakarta this morning.

Speaking to RRI [Radio Republik Indonesia] following the consultative meeting, Akbar Tanjung, secretary of the Functional Group [Golkar], said that Mohamed Suharto had agreed to be renominated as the presidential candidate for the 1993-1998 period as long as the renomination is initated in accordance with the people's aspiration and not due to pressure. The Functional Group was the first faction Mohamed Suharto received for the meeting. He subsequently received the other factions one by one.

Private Group Questions Suharto Report

BK0803121193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1056 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Jakarta, March 8 (AFP)—A private group Monday questioned the validity of a report given by President Suharto on his rule over the last five years to the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) even as the president accept [as received] a nomination to another term. The Body for the Protection of the People's Political Rights (BPHPR), in a statement obtained by AFP Monday, said Suharto's account of his rule to "a body which has the majority of its membership chosen and appointed by himself," could only be considered as "talks between friends." It came as Suharto accepted his nomination by all five factions in the MPR as sole presidential candidate for another five-year term.

BPHPR also questioned why Suharto had omitted several bloody incidents, like those in Lampung, Aceh and East Timor, from his report to the MPR, the country's highest legislative institution.

At least 38 people died in a violent clash between troops and an obscure Muslim sect in Lampung, south Sumatera, in February 1989. A series of attacks by separatist rebels in Aceh, northern Sumatera, and Jakarta's military operations to quash it is believed to have killed hundreds of people since early in 1990. Troops fired into a crowd of pro-independence demonstrators in Dili, East Timor, on November 12, killing scores of civilians.

The membership of the MPR consists of the 500 members of the House of Representatives (DPR) and another 500 members appointed by the president from all walks of life. Only 400 members of the house were indirectly elected through parliamentary polls in June, the remaining 100 being appointed by the president from the ranks of the military who do not hold the right to vote in elections.

The MPR started its two-week single five-yearly session [as received] on March 1 to set guidelines for state policies for the upcoming five years and elect the president and a vice president for the same period.

The assembly is expected to elect a new head of state Wednesday and a vice president Thursday.

The BPHPR has in the past said that the results of the 1992 parliamentary election, and concurrently the institutions based on it including the MPR, was not valid because it was not held democratically in a free, fair and secret manner as stipulated in the Constitution. The BPHPR is presided over by leading Indonesian human rights activist Johannes Princen and was set up shortly before the June election.

Earlier Monday Azwar Anas, head of the ruling Golkar Party faction on the MPR, announced that Suharto "seems to accept our wishes and aspirations," for his nomination. Anas, speaking after meeting Suharto at the presidential residence, said he had transmitted his faction's wishes, in a document signed by all 523 members, to name the 71-year-old president as sole candidate for the position.

The 30 minute visit was followed later in the day by visits from the leaders of the four other MPR factions: the Armed Forces, the Muslim-based United Development Party, the small Christian- nationalist coalition Democratic Party of Indonesia and regional representatives. Leaders of all factions told journalists after their meetings that Suharto had accepted the nomination.

Suharto, who has in recent weeks shed some doubt on his willingness to stand again, has been sole presidential candidate for the last 25 years. All five MPR factions have also named former armed forces chief, retired General Try Sutrisno, 57, as vice-presidential candidate.

Commentary Approves Assembly's State Policies

BK0803084793 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Today the 1993 People's Consultative Assembly, MPR, general assembly is entering its eighth day. We can be fairly certain that the assembly will be able to make resolutions and adopt a prudent approach to drafting a broad outline of state policies (GBHN) in order to fulfill all the Indonesia people's aspirations as well as to maintain national unity and cohesion.

To be embodied in the 1993 GBHN are the directions of the coming five-year development program. Possibly, this GBHN will give a picture of what Indonesia is going to do or should do to enable the nation to enter the take-off period under the second 25-year long-term development program.

The fifth year of the fifth Repelita [five-year development plan] will end on 31 March 1994. This also marks the end of the first phase of a long-term development plan which we have been implementing for 25 years. This period is simultaneously marking our entry into the first year of the sixth Repelita, which is also the first year of the second phase of the long-term development plan. In view of this, all resolutions of the 1993 MPR assembly should be achieved through a consensus. The consensus reached will be of great benefit to ensure smooth proceedings in the assembly sessions and the enhancement of Pancasila democracy.

It is very heartening to hear that Ahmad Amirrudin, the chairman of MPR's working committee, and Suhardiman, the vice chairman of MPR' working committee, both said that every assembly session is conducted within a friendly, give-and-take atmosphere. This is because the friendship among the working comittees of the various factions in the Parliament has been established since October 1992.

National stability and national development continuity are what the people expect when they give their mandate to a president-elect. As we all know, the MPR represents the people, and is the beholder of the sovereignty of the nation. That is why, whatever resolution is adopted at the 1993 MPR general assembly will be the resolution of the Indonesian people; and it will undoubtedly be broad enough in concept to fulfill all the Indonesian people's aspirations.

Private TV Station Permits Issued

BK0503143593 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 13 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS—The government has issued permits to four private television networks to carry out nationwide transmissions. As such, there will be five private television networks, which will broadcast their nationwide transmissions in addition to the TPI [Indonesian Education Television] network. It began its nationwide transmission on 23 January 1991.

Information Minister Harmoko said this to reporters after he opened a seminar in Jakarta on 12 February entitled: "The impact of transnational information media on rural education and information system in Indonesia."

Two of the four TV stations ready to jam the nation's airwaves, namely RCTI [Rajawali Citra Televisi Indonesia] and SCTV [Surabaya Citra Televisi], were already set up several years ago. The other two stations, namely the Cakrawala Andalas Televisi or AN-teve and the Jakarta-based Indosiar Visual Mandiri stations, recently were set up.

According to Alex Leo Zulkarnain, director general of radio, television, and film, the two new stations constitute a regrouping [preceding word in English] of several private stations which obtained government permits in 1991-92. At that time, the permits were issued for local, not nationwide transmissions. The AN-teve consists of the Lampung-based Cakrawala Andalas Televisi Co. Ltd., Palembang-based Cakrawala Bumi Sriwijaya Co.Ltd., and Yogyakarta-based Sanitya Mandara Televisi, while the Indosiar is a merger of the Batam-based Ramaco Indo Televisi Co.Ltd. and Semarang-based Merdeka Citra Televisi Indonesia Co. Ltd. [passage omitted]

Philippines

Ramos Wants 'Highest Level' Review of U.S. Ties

HK0803075593 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 8 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Bert Castro]

[Text] President Ramos yesterday asked that relations between the Philippines and the United States be reviewed "at the highest level" in the light of fast-paced developments after the pull-out of the American bases here.

Mr. Ramos made the proposal in a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton.

He took the cue from the U.S. president's letter hailing Mr. Ramos' economic reforms and political stabilization programs.

In his letter, Clinton applauded Mr. Ramos' economic and political programs. He expressed hope "you could implement it rapidly to lay the base for substantial growth."

Clinton's message was contained in a letter he sent to Mr. Ramos through outgoing U.S. Ambassador Richard Solomon.

But what prompted President Ramos to mount a new diplomatic initiative was Clinton's fresh hope "to strengthen U.S.-Philippines ties" which he expects to "enhance the lives of our peoples."

Clinton also expressed his desire to meet Ramos soon. "I look forward to meeting you at a mutually convenient time and working with you to strengthen U.S.-Philippines ties," he wrote.

Clinton assured Ramos of his government's continuing support for his eight-month-old administration, especially its general amnesty program.

Clinton even disclosed Washington's interest to fortify the bilateral ties between the two countries through economic bands, specifically trade.

"I want to assure you of the continuing importance I place on our relations with the Philippines. We must strengthen the economic bonds between us through trade and nurture the strong personal and cultural ties between our two peoples," Clinton said in his letter.

Mr. Ramos also expressed appreciation for Clinton's assurance of support, saying: "Despite the enormous transformation that the world had undergone, the basic relationship between our two governments, countries, and peoples remains firm and cooperative."

In proposing a fresh review of their two countries' bilateral relations, Mr. Ramos said our perceptions of each other and of our region have to be updated and new initiatives should be undertaken for our common objectives, which is for the benefit of both our peoples."

The exchange of letters between the two presidents is expected to propel a new round of talks to tackle the two leaders' quest for a stronger bilateral ties.

Assured of getting priority in the high level meeting is economic cooperation.

Aid Session Seen as Opportunity To Improve Image

HK0603052993 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Diplomats said the Philippines will try to use the aid-pledging session in France this year to improve its image in Europe. Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo said the annual session of the U.S.-led Philippine Assistance Program will be held in France in June. Philippine efforts to improve its image come in the wake of the cooling off of relations with the United States, which used to be its closest trading partner.

Japanese Envoy: Ramos' Visit Will Boost Economy

HK0803085293 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 7 Mar 93 p 1-6

[Text] The solution of key problems hampering the country's economic take off will automatically trigger the inflow of substantial investments into the country from the Japanese as they have done in neighboring Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, a Japanese diplomatic official said yesterday.

Minister [title as published] Misato Murayama of the Japanese Embassy said that direct investments from Japan, although listed as the top foreign investor in the Philippines in 1989 and 1990, have not grown as expected because Japanese investors basically maintain a "cautious attitude and the reasons are clear enough."

These reasons, according to Murayama, are:

1. The "worrisome" political stability and public safety.
2. Infrastructure development is perceived as being neglected.

3. Deregulation in legal and administrative areas, as well as in the area of investment incentives, probably needs acceleration.

Murayama gave a briefing for Filipino reporters assigned to cover President Ramos' state visit to Japan starting March 9.

"Japanese companies seem generally to welcome the policy orientation of the Ramos administration, such as its drive to curb crime, its move towards liberalization and the opening up of the economy, and its efforts to solve the power shortages," Murayama said.

"If the Ramos administration can succeed in achieving its policy objectives, substantial Japanese investment will flow into the country and make a valuable contribution to the development of the Philippines, as has been done in neighboring ASEAN countries," he added.

The Japanese embassy official said he believes that the forthcoming visit of President Ramos to Japan would provide an excellent opportunity to expand dialogues on the highest level between the two countries.

"It is my sincere hope that the visit will become a milestone in the upgrading of our existing friendly relations," Murayama said.

Assessing current efforts to solve its problems, Marayama said those taking interest in the health and stability of the Philippines "have been impressed by the way you are moving ahead in the search for unity, stability, and growth under the leadership of your president."

Murayama maintained that the exchange of views between President Ramos and Japanese leaders would encourage the business sectors of both countries to expand trade agreements.

Trade between the Philippines and Japan has been steadily expanding in recent years.

Murayama attributed this to the expansion of Japan's domestic demand and Japanese investment in the Philippines.

In 1991, trade between the two countries reached $4.1 billion which amounts to about 20 percent of the Philippines' total trade volume.

On Japan's perceived flexing of its military muscle, Murayama stated that Japan is determined not to play a military role in solving any regional or international issues.

He said Japan's involvement in the United Nations' peacekeeping operations in Cambodia is a "recent case of peace and security collaboration in the Asian region."

Japan sent police personnel and a non-combative team of Self-Defense Forces to Cambodia whose main purpose is to build roads, he added.

After its defeat in World War II, the new Constitution of Japan forbids that country from assuming a militaristic posture.

Armed Forces Confirm Monitoring RAM Members

HK0503140593 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 5 Mar 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] today confirmed that they are indeed monitoring members of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] who have been given temporary freedom due to the peace negotiations.

In today's first conference of the AFP's Civil Relations Command, Brigadier General Romeo Padiernos said this is not regarded as surveillance, but a security measure for the RAM members. It is allegedly the military's duty to provide the RAM members security while they are out of detention, even if they hold safe conduct passes.

Earlier, RAM members requested that the government let them look after their own security.

Ramos Signs Order for 25 March ARMM Polls

HK0503140693 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 5 Mar 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] President Fidel Ramos today signed Republic Act 7647 setting the election in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao [ARMM] for 25 March. He added that should there be no winners declared on 31 March, the current governor and vice governor will continue to govern. The Commission on Elections also said that its 35,000 officials and members, including teachers and soldiers, who would be serving in the ARMM polls will be provided insurance coverage of up to 50,000 pesos.

Armed Men Reported in Basilan; Marines Deployed

HK0503140793 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 5 Mar 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] Basilan is still gripped with fear. The Philippine News Agency reported that 10 Philippine Marine brigades from the 23d Infantry Battalion were sent to the town of Lantauan. The move came after 200 armed rebels have been reportedly seen in the Basilan town.

Deputy Commander Colonel Inocencio Artaos said the deployment of the soldiers was aimed at preventing the entry of armed men whose place of origin could not be determined.

Meanwhile, the fact-finding body created by the Philippine National Police failed to investigate the burning of 100 houses in Tuburan during military operations. Basilan Governor Jerry Salapudin said soldiers did not allow the fact-finding members to enter the area they are supposed to investigate.

Military Sets Deadline To 'Annihilate' Rebels

HK0603052793 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The military has given itself until June to annihilate rebels in Basilan island. Marine Brigadier General Guillermo Ruiz, head of the newly formed Basilan Island Command, said the government forces will devote all of March to pursuing Muslim rebels who killed 25 Marines last 9 February. Ruiz added that the authorities will launch new attacks on the remaining rebels and other outlaws in Basilan in June.

MNLF Claims Responsibility for Basilan Massacre

HK0803060093 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 8 Mar 93 pp 1, 10

[Report by J. Feliciano and Rolly San Juan]

[Text] Zamboanga City—The Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] in Basilan, through one of its leaders, has claimed responsibility for the massacre of 21 Marines and four militia men on Feb. 9.

In a three-page letter dated Feb. 28 and sent to the government-owned Radyo ng Bayan-dxMR, Gulam Abdulkadir Sallani said those who killed the government troops were neither bandits nor MNLF deserters but bona fide members of the Front.

The letter was addressed to Marine Brig. Gen. Guillermo Ruiz, newly named chief of the military's Basilan Island Command.

Sallani, who styled himself as head of Basilan's Border Command (Borcom II), also said the Feb. 9 incident was not an ambush but an encounter.

Referring to reports blaming bandits and MNLF renegades for the bloodbath, Sallani said: "Nagkamali kayo, kasi walang bandits at Lost Command sa araw na iyon, kundi purely MNLF ang kaharap ng Philippine Marines [You are wrong, there were no bandits nor Lost Command on that day, but purely MNLF confronting the Philippine Marines]."

There was no immediate comment from military and police officials.

It was not known, either, if Sallani's claim would affect plans of the Basilan police and investigators from Camp Crame to file multiple murder and frustrated murder [attempted murder] charges against Tuburan Vice Mayor Rajid Sahabat and at least eight other people in connection with the massacre.

Another rebel leader, meanwhile, wrote Lt. Gen. Romeo Zulueta, Southern Command chief, threatening to bring violence to major cities in Western Mindanao if the military did not cease its offensive in Basilan.

Ustadz Abdurajik Abubakar, also called Abu Sayyaf and who describes himself as the leader of mujahideen or Muslim holy warriors, told Zulueta: "Withdraw your men from Basilan or else it will be too late for you to stop the destruction of every city (in the region)."

Sayyaf claimed responsibility for the Feb. 28 bomb explosion at the Zamboanga City airport and warned "more will follow" if the military did not stop its onslaught in basilan.

Investigator Armando Pelaez of the Criminal Investigation Service Command said last Thursday that the charges against the Tuburan vice mayor and eight others would be filed tomorrow with the provincial prosecutor's office in Isabela, Basilan's capital.

Zulueta, in new conference two days after the massacre, claimed that Sahabat had invited the troops to a lunchtime wedding party and that they were ambushed on their way to the reception site.

Two brothers, Ujak and Asah Salato, who claim to have witnessed the bloodbath, are now in the custody of the Third Marine Brigade in Basilan.

Sallani, also known as Kumander [Commander] Black Eagle, challenged the military to a "real fight" after Ramadan, the Muslim sacred month ending on March 15.

He accused the Marines of being corrupt and of burning homes of civilians in the military-police offensive to get the rebels.

"The marines are the true bandits and Lost Command rebels," he said. "They are soldiers who have not learned to follow the law."

Sallani claimed to have 57 followers, all fully armed.

Backing him up, he said, was "Kumander Durie Kalahal of the Libyan Commando" with 59 armed followers.

He named four other MNLF leaders as also responsible for the massacre: Ahmadiya, field commander of Zone 1; H. Edris Sali, operational commander, Borcom II; Abdulnasir Imam Kahalon, in charge of military affairs, Borcom II; and Mujahid, in charge of Borcom II strike forces.

Sallani cleared Kumander Judain of any responsibility for the attack on the Marines.

The military had accused Judain of being one of those who took part in the massacre.

Sallani claimed 93 rebels had "infiltrated" Zamboanga City and that two of them had been trained for suicidal attacks on military leaders, including Ruiz.

He added, however, that they were not closing the door to a reconciliation with the government.

"We are ready to reconcile for as long as MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari will agree," he said.

Thailand

Akashi: 'More' Vietnamese Troops in Cambodia

BK0503135493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] BANGKOK, March 5 (AFP)—The head of the United Nations peace keeping effort in Cambodia said here Friday that there were more Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia than the three already discovered by the U.N..

"There are some more left," Yasushi Akashi said in reply to journalists' questions after a 45-minute minute meeting with Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri.

Akashi did not elaborate further, nor did he give an estimate of how many Vietnamese troops he thought were left in Cambodia, but he said the discovery of the three last week was "proof that we're trying to get down to the bottom of this."

The hard-line Khmer Rouge faction has flatly refused to join the U.N. peace process in Cambodia charging that Vietnam left "thousands" of troops in Cambodia after it said it had withdrawn all its forces in 1989.

Vietnam insists all troops were pulled out, and until last week the United Nations had said it had no proof of any remaining in the country.

The Khmer Rouge earlier Friday lashed out at the United Nations for tokenism, charging that there were 45,000 Vietnamese troops still in the country, 10,000 of them officers.

"At present, Cambodia remains under Vietnamese control," Mak Ben, a senior Khmer Rouge official, said at a Phnom Penh conference. "It is rather ridiculous (that) it took 16 months for UNTAC to find three Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia."

UNTAC is the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia headed by Akashi.

Hanoi reacted angrily, flaying the U.N. for what it called "a course new act (by the United Nations) in a campaign that aims to obscure the truth, discredit Vietnam and sabotage the application of the Paris Peace Accords."

The attack was carried by the army daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, which called the identification of the three Vietnamese which the U.N. wants to repatriate "absurd and unacceptable."

Akashi, who is scheduled to fly back to Cambodia Saturday, said he was in the Thai capital to discuss the effectiveness of bans on trading in petrol, logs and gems with the Khmer Rouge.

In answer to questions after the meeting with Prasong the U.N. official described log export and petroleum import bans introduced in the new year as "very effective but not foolproof."

"They have been improving since January," he said, adding that detected violations had now dropped to about one quarter of those reported at the beginning of the year.

He had requested Thai government cooperation on the gems ban which came into effect March 1, he said, adding that he and Prasong had focused in their talks on commercial production of gems and minerals and on five or six Thai companies identified as violators.

Akashi also told reporters that there had been "no breakthrough" on talks with nominal Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan on chances of the faction finally joining the peace process and elections scheduled for May.

The talks were however continuing, he said.

Prasong, UNTAC Chief Meet on Log, Gem Ban

BK0603012693 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Mar 93 p 6

[Text] The chief of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, yesterday expressed confidence that more Vietnamese would be traced in Cambodia in the future. He said the lack of co-operation from the four Cambodian factions had resulted in the peacekeeping mission's failure to trace foreign forces in Cambodia.

Mr Akashi, who met Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri last night, said there were more Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia than the three already discovered by the UN.

"The peacekeeping forces will continue to look for foreign forces despite the lack of cooperation from all four factions," he said, adding that UNTAC has "hundreds of experts" to look into this matter. The peacekeeping forces found the first three Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia on Monday, one year after the UN operation began in Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge faction has flatly refused to join the UN peace process in Cambodia charging that Vietnam left "thousands" of troops in Cambodia after it said it had withdrawn all its forces in 1989.

Mr Akashi also sought Thailand's cooperation in banning gems exports from Cambodia in the meeting with Sqn Ldr Prasong but he declined to go into details. The Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) on February 10 banned gems export at the meeting chaired by

Prince Narodom Sihanouk despite objections by the Khmer Rouge. The ban came into effect on February 28.

He also thanked Thailand for abiding by the UN resolution to put pressure on the Khmer Rouge, adding Thailand's cooperation was crucial to peace in Cambodia. Mr Akashi noted that log exports on the Thai-Cambodian border decreased after the ban came into effect in January but the operation was now being carried out through Laos.

Meanwhile, Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong told the press that he had reassured Mr Akashi that Thailand was ready to comply with any resolution of the SNC, adding that Mr Akashi had also informed him about the preparation for the legislative election in Cambodia scheduled for May.

Mr Akashi also told reporters that there had been "no breakthrough" on talks with nominal Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan on chances of the faction finally joining the peace process and elections. The talks were however continuing, he said.

Meanwhile, the UN Mission has given the Cambodian government a Monday deadline to apprehend officials suspected of killing four opposition party members, UN sources said yesterday. If the government fails to meet the deadline for turning over the men, UN officials will use recently acquired powers to arrest the suspects themselves, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The UN Mission said several weeks ago that an undisclosed number of government authorities in the northwestern province of Battambang had arrested six members of the opposition party loyal to Prince Sihanouk. One of the men was subsequently released and a second escaped. UN officials say they believe the other four are dead.

The UN Mission has asked the government, which has admitted it made the arrests, to apprehend the officials who are suspected of killing the missing men, the sources said.

Mr Akashi issued a directive several weeks ago allowing UN officials to arrest and prosecute Cambodians suspected of committing political violence. The directive was aimed at reducing a spate of violence that has claimed the lives of dozens of opposition politicians. It is widely believed the government is responsible for the violence, though it has denied involvement. Government spokesman Khieu Kanharith said he knew nothing about the Monday deadline.

UN spokesman Eric Falt declined to comment when asked to confirm the reports given by sources. But he said he expected to release information on the fate of the four men on Monday.

Government 'Went Overboard' in Enforcing Logging Ban

BK0703024093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Mar 93 p A9

[Commentary by Marisa Chimprap]

[Text] In a desperate attempt to save face, Thailand went overboard in implementing Cambodia's Supreme National Council's [SNC] ban on log exports, later endorsed by the United Nations. Thailand has stopped the import of all wood products from Cambodia since December.

The UN and the SNC last year imposed the moratorium on the export of logs from Cambodia and requested neighbouring states to respect the measure. The resolution clearly indicates that it covers only logs, not processed wood.

The Interior Ministry in its bid to back the UN resolution ordered the closure of all border crossing points to stop the transportation of timber from Cambodia to Thailand.

The first week after the sanction took effect in Jan 1, 1993, wood products as well as gems came under an embargo. The Army manned the checkpoints to prevent their export to Thailand. But a closer look at the sanctions revealed that except for logs and gems it did not apply to other goods, including processed wood.

Thai authorities misunderstood the whole thing from the start, but no one was brave enough to accept blame for the costly fiasco. This misinterpretation of the log ban could be regarded as a black spot in this government's foreign policy.

Thai loggers had turned to the interior and foreign ministries for help, and tried to convince officials there that certain countries, including Japan and Singapore, were allowed to transfer processed wood out of Cambodia.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, a former chief of the National Security Council (SNC), had said everybody concerned should read the regulation of the log ban carefully as Thai loggers were still allowed to transport processed wood from Cambodia but "under the supervision of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) and the SNC".

The question now is whether the government, especially the foreign and interior ministries, had informed the Thai loggers about this alternative. The loggers said they were kept ignorant of the rules covering the transport of processed timber out of Cambodia.

However, with regard to the SNC's moratorium on logs, it was a big surprise that the Thai side had to ask the SNC at its Feb 10 meeting to clarify whether the processed wood came under the ban. The Thai side had also consulted the SNC on how many cubic metres of the processed wood could be moved from Cambodia.

While Thailand was doing this, other countries with investment in the logging business in Cambodia continued to export wood products.

A senior NSC official recently admitted that the Thai side had over-reacted in implementing the log embargo, saying that the authorities wanted to show "wholehearted" endorsement of the sanctions to push the Khmer Rouge back to the peace process.

"Yes, Thailand over-reacted as it has stopped the export of logs while other countries still transported the processed timber from areas controlled by factions other than the Khmer Rouge," the official said. He stressed that the Thai authorities' aim was to project a better image in the eyes of foreign countries.

Although the 48 Thai logging firms having joint ventures with the four Cambodian factions are a minority in the Thai population, they have the right to protect their investment. The good news was that the Thai government was considering allowing processed wood to pass the border crossing points.

Regardless of Thailand's active implementation of the UN resolution, the Untac had still indirectly claimed the embargo was being violated at the Thai border. Its spokesman, Enc Falt, had said there were no official reports of the violation but that did not mean it was not happening on the Thai side.

The enforcement of the sanction on logs was the responsibility of the Thais. Thai military units were also ordered to take on the additional duty of monitoring possible violations of the log ban at their checkpoints. The Untac itself failed to persuade the Maoist faction to allow it to set up checkpoints in the areas its controlled.

The same security official pointed out that the Cambodian border adjacent to Vietnam and Laos had no Untac checkpoints, only those of the SNC, with enforcement not as efficient as along the Thai border.

Thailand, a neighbouring country of Cambodia, had always been accused of secretly supporting the Khmer Rouge. Certainly it could not be denied that some Thai people had traded with the Maoist faction. However, the Khmer Rouge should not carry all burden for the failure to restore peace in Cambodia, the responsibility of the Untac.

The inefficiency of the Untac was known when Son Sann, leader of the Khmer People's Liberation Front, sought help from Thai side to stop the fighting between Phnom Penh Government and the Khmer Rouge.

Son Sann also informed the National Security Council's chief Gen Charan Kunlawanit that logs were still being transported from Cambodia to Vietnam, despite the fact that the embargo took effect on Jan 1, 1993. The Untac had been sitting on its hands where a call by Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan, to investigate Son San's reports was concerned. Surin said the Untac should look into Son Sann's claim. The Untac's credibility would be damaged if it did not investigate his allegations.

He said nobody would trust the international body which has been assigned by the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement to organize the general election in May.

The Untac, which was allocated the largest budget by the United Nations should review the actions it had taken so far to ensure that once it withdrew its troops from Cambodia, the war-torn country would be able to survive on its own, he added.

Son Sann's information regarding the presence of Vietnamese in his country, which he conveyed to Gen Charan, could be taken as another reminder of the failure of the Untac. Despite the repeated calls by the Khmer Rouge for the UN peacekeepers to verify the presence of Vietnamese in Cambodia the Untac had yet to do so. Son Sann's allegations indicated that the Maoist's faction's claims were not groundless.

This week's arrests of three Vietnamese nationals by the Untac came after some two years of the Untac's presence in Cambodia.

The Paris peace agreement read that the Untac would complete the second phase of disarmament and cantonment of the four factions before organizing the general election. But the date of the general poll was set in May while the Untac failed to bring the Khmer Rouge into the second phase.

NSC Chief Comments on Regional Security, Economy

BK0703020293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Mar 93 p A1

[Interview with General Charan Kunlawanit, chief of the National Security Council, by Kunchada Chaiphiphat—date, place not given]

[Text] National Security Council (NSC) Chief Gen Charan Kunlawanit yesterday dismissed as "exaggerated fears" reports that China was building up its military strength in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean through access to facilities in Burma. Gen Charan said there was no reason for such fear as long as there was no confirmed evidence that the regional power was establishing military facilities there.

Recent reports citing western intelligent sources said Rangoon's military regime was extending use of its port facilities in the Irrawaddy Delta to China to set up military radar.

Charan said he believed Beijing's current policy to open its door to the South should be seen as a friendly gesture rather than a hostile signal to the nations in Southeast Asia, as countries in the region were now preoccupied with what they commonly defined as "peaceful coexistence and common prosperity".

"I think China is simply looking for friends and trading partners, as its relationship with the Soviet Union and Vietnam is not in such good shape," Charan said in an exclusive interview with THE NATION.

He said Thailand, given its geographical location at the centre of the Southeast Asian mainland and increasing socio-economic interdependence with neighbouring states, could act as a hub between the interconnected economic rings emerging in the region—Asean, Asia Pacific, Indochina and the newly-emerging Growth Quadrangle covering China's southern province of Yunnan, Burma's eastern Shan State, northern Thailand and northern Laos.

At an inter-government meeting on the "New Regional Equilibrium" which he chaired last month, it was concluded that the sustainable development of natural and human resources through interconnecting sub-regional economic areas was important for regional peace and stability. He defined the term "New Regional Equilibrium" as peaceful coexistence and common prosperity.

Speaking in support of the government's idea for the Growth Quadrangle Charan said the new regional power arrangement warranted the need to include China and Burma into Southeast Asia despite the world's determination to isolate them as a punitive measure for their continued human rights violations.

He said that in addition to its other trading partners, Thailand should extend its hand to help China and Burma catch up with those growth areas already established. Imbalances in regional development would adversely threaten regional stability, he added.

The NSC chief was quick to deny that in supporting the government's idea, there was any ulterior motive by the NSC to use Thailand's economic force to try to deter the influence of China.

"What is being talked about for the border areas is purely a result of the social and economic needs of the people living there," said Charan.

He said the government should play a supporting role by eliminating rules that in the past restricted people's contact and by helping them overcome geographic barriers through the construction of land routes or other means. He warned, however, that in establishing sub-regional economic cooperation with neighbours, the government should most of all respect the true needs of those neighbours and not try to take the lead, which could be mistaken by them as Thailand's seeking to revive its glorious kingdom or "Suwannaphumi" espoused at the time of World War II.

"We must consider how to build trust with our neighbours, and in doing so we must be humble rather than pushy," Charan said.

During the "Suwannaphumi" era under the helm of Field Marshal P. Phibunsonggram, Thailand became a transiting and staging point for Japanese aggression in Southeast Asia.

Premier To Visit Singapore, Philippines 22-26 Mar

BK0803024993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Mar 93 p A2

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai will make an official visit to Singapore and the Philippines from March 22 to 26 to strengthen bilateral relations with the two Asean countries, his second overseas trip as head of government.

Chuan's secretary-general, Thawat Wichaidit, said yesterday said the premier would first visit Singapore, where topics for discussions included Thai workers in Singapore and the Asean Free Trade Area.

Singapore is one of Thailand's major labour markets. During the Chatchai administration, frequent disputes broke out over Thai labour and Singapore's tough immigration laws. The labour issue also made headlines when one Thai worker died mysteriously after another from so-called unidentified nocturnal death syndrome.

The premier would go to Manila on March 24, for talks on the mutual relationship, including Thai-Philippines investment.

Manila would also bestow an award on Chuan, Thawat said, but declined to give further information.

This will be Chuan's second foreign trip since he took office. The prime minister visited Malaysia in January. Chuan also plans to visit China. But no specific date has been fixed for the trio.

To Visit PRC in 1993

BK0803123193 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri disclosed that Prime Minister Chuan Likphai is scheduled to pay an official visit to the PRC in late 1993. The visit is aimed at further strengthening Thai-Sino relations.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival from an official visit to China from 27 February to 4 March, the foreign minister said that his PRC visit was successful. Thailand and China have, during the intial stage, agreed to establish both land and waterway communication. Regarding reports on Chinese girls being lured into prostitution in Thailand, the foreign minister said that officials from Xishuanbanna and Kunming came to meet him when he was in Yunnan Province to discuss the problem. The Chinese officials said they were still unable to find any preventive measures because people of different nationalities are involved. It was recommended that the two countries exchange information in this connection. The foreign minister added that improvement of communication routes among the four countries—namely Thailand, Laos, China, and Burma—to bring prosperity to Yunnan Province and facilitate trade in the region, thus the problem will be solved to a certain extent.

Touching on the statement by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, that he would not run in the presidential election, the foreign minister said: We must listen to Prince Norodom Sihanouk because he knows better than anyone else about the internal problems of Cambodia and their solutions. However, the Cambodian people must be allowed to solve their own problems with assistance from Thailand, ASEAN countries, and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

Premier Opposes 'Unilateral Actions' on Trade

BK0703013493 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 7 Mar 93 pp 1, 3

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai last night spoke against unilateral action in what was seen as a veiled reference to trade sanctions the United States has threatened to impose on Thailand for failure to protect intellectual property rights.

"I do not believe in the value of adopting unilateral actions in the sphere of bilateral or multilateral relations," the prime minister told Thai and US opinion leaders.

"Unilateral actions might be easier to implement, but they are not effective solutions," he added.

The prime minister was the keynote speaker at a dinner hosted by the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies and the Ban Chang Group, organisers of the first US-Thai leadership Council meeting concluding today.

The US has given Thailand until next month to protect intellectual property rights and patents or face action under Section 301 of the US Trade Act.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Kasemsamoson Kasemsi told reporters that the question came under intense debate yesterday afternoon, at the first US-Thai Leadership Council meeting. The Thai side sought to extend the deadline beyond April, he added.

Political scientist Phongsan Phanthulap of Ramkamhaeng University stressed the need for a compromise to be reached on the question. He urged Thailand to bargain with the US as a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"I believe that Thailand and the United States share the view that mutual understanding, trust and appreciation is the only basis for a fruitful, meaningful and constructive relationship," Prime Minister Chuan said.

"That relationship cannot be strong and long-lasting if either party is so destabilised by the actions, either intentional or unintentional, of the other party," he added.

The Prime Minister's speech was delivered on the eve of the departure for the US of Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri. After attending a round table on refugees and meeting UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in New York, Squadron Leader Prasong is scheduled to discuss economic, political and security questions with US leaders in Washington late next week. Sqn Ldr Prasong is due to meet Secretary of State Warren Christopher, National Security Advisor Anthony Lake and leading congressmen.

Prime Minister Chuan at the same time called on the US to lend economic backing to new co-operation networks shaping up among countries sharing the Mekong River as well as the Malaysia-Indonesia-Thailand Growth Triangle.

"It is now the intention of my government to help create interlocking networks of co-operation," the prime minister said.

"An economic role for the United States of America in these emerging networks, when she is ready would be highly welcomed and would help to cement our ties of friendship and co-operation," he added. The prime minister noted that the two countries had co-operated at regional and international levels.

Regionally, he pointed to the ASEAN-US dialogue, the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences and the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum.

"At the international level, we have smooth and effective co-operation under the United Nations framework, and the Uruguay Round has provided us with reasonable optimism that multilateral negotiations could solve trade disputes and promote international trade," he added.

The prime minister stressed the need for the two countries to keep "fully open" various channels of communication in order to minimise misunderstandings.

At the same time, Prime Minister Chuan reiterated his government's commitment to the promotion of democracy, human rights, environmental protection and the rule of law.

"Political and economic rights and freedoms go hand in hand," he pointed out. "The United States of America, with her great economic resources and political commitment to promote respect for human rights, could play a bigger role still in alleviating the suffering and hardship."

Stressing that "actions speak louder than words," he said Thailand in recent years had shown its "commitment to uphold respect of human rights in accordance with international law and practice."

At a regional gathering two weeks ago, the prime minister called on Southeast Asian states to stop being defensive and come up with their own guidelines on human rights. On environmental protection, the prime minister stressed that his government's policy was action-oriented and in favour of local initiative. The strengthening of the rule of law is important to domestic peace and stability and Thailand's standing in the international community, he added.

Prime Minister's 'Common Man' Image Questioned

BK0703032093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Mar 93 p A10

[Editorial by NATION editor Suthichai Yun: "Mosquitogate Begins to Bite"]

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai wasn't his usual, confident self this week. He didn't appear too keen to squeeze some clear-cut answers to three very crucial questions which could reflect on the quality of his political leadership. For the first time since the Chuan administration was installed, perhaps, the opposition has valid grounds to take the coalition government to task.

The prime minister will have to tell the public just what's behind these three major issues:

Firstly, did any of the Democrat MPs lobby government MPs to abstain from attending last Saturday's House session which ended in an uproar—and one of the critical questions was: Why didn't the government whips manage to get a quorum to continue with the House meeting?

The opposition has already made it very clear that it would challenge the government on this score. Social Action Party spokesman Piyanat Watcharaphon swore that some Democrats MPs were behind the plot to kill the House session to avoid the urgent-motion on the First City Investment scandal. Deputy House Speaker TAWIN PRAISON confirmed with us that a senior Democrat MP informed him of the "ploy."

The fact that Piyanat and Tawin belong to parties in the coalition government has had some devastating effect on the validity of the claim from the Democrats—all the way from Premier Chuan on downwards—that the government was in fact prepared to face the opposition head-on. The premier has slipped badly on this score. As prime minister and head of the Democrat Party, Chuan must demonstrate beyond any doubt that he has firm control over the coalition and his own party.

It's a no-win situation for him. If Chuan was genuinely unaware of his aides' political plot to avoid the showdown in the House, then that is tantamount to incompetence. If he knew what was happening behind the scenes, his subsequent statements to the contrary would suggest that political expediency had overtaken his usual adherence to truth. There can be no other explanation for this.

Secondly, the scandal, henceforth to be known as "Mosquitogate" in this column, involving a total budget of Bt [baht] 143 million sought by MPs, in collusion with government officials at the Budget Bureau and the Interior Ministry's Community Development Department, has tainted Chuan's very own record of intolerance against any semblance of corrupt practices.

No proof has been produced so far. But something must have gone wrong somewhere, or else the prime minister would not have ordered a halt to the disbursement of this amount proposed by MPs, from both the government and opposition parties. The revelation has gone to prove that this is but the tip of an iceberg in the form of shady dealings among MPs, government officials, and businessmen. More scandalous deals await further disclosures in the near future—and the actual scale of "dirty dealings" could well be very alarming indeed.

Chuan's reaction to this issue was far from heartening—especially for a politician who has vowed to set new ethical standards in Parliament. He has simply ordered an investigation into the case—and instructed a halt to the spending, as if this was an isolated case of the lack of discretion on the part of the elected MPs. The fact is that what has been disclosed so far is in fact sufficient ground to launch a massive overhaul of the way politicians, businessmen and the bureaucrats could actually squander taxpayers' money in the most blatant manner.

Obviously, more than the destruction of striped mosquitoes in the ponds of faraway villages is at stake. But the prime minister has chosen to treat it as a routine nuisance rather than a serious breach of the public's faith in the country's parliamentary system.

Thirdly, the premier has failed to convince the public that his government will go all the way to punish those behind the collapse of First City Investment Co. [FCI]. The clear link between the FCI proprietor, Khunying PATCHARI WONGPAITUN, a daughter of former Democrat leader Phichit Rattakun, and some senior members of the ruling party, has set tongues wagging over Chuan's reluctance to initiate any action.

The fact that the opposition is crying foul doesn't mean that the government has to go into hiding. But there is every reason to believe that the government is not playing a clean game with all the facts involved, citing "legal constraints" to avoid full disclosure of events behind the scandal.

Inevitably, the question being raised is: Who's the government trying to protect? Some juicy facts and figures have cropped up and the opposition does have good grounds to try to point out just how the administration had failed to take the public into its confidence.

Why Chuan has not been more forthcoming with details of this case to show that he had merely tried to defuse a "bomb" inherited from previous governments is not clear. There is no denying that the central bank, the stock market, the SEC [Security and Exchange Commission] and the finance ministry could have, in retrospect, handled the case in a more effective manner. It is also clearly evident that the public has yet to be told the full story behind this episode.

Unless the prime minister takes some firm, decisive action to prove to the people that the "rich, influential, and powerful elements of society" can, and will, get away with their dirty acts against the less fortunate, the looming crisis of confidence in our "Mr Common Man" may well snowball into all-out mistrust. The least that Chuan can do is to give the people's hope in fair play and decency a new lease of life.

Commentary Views Parliament Walk-Out, Coup Call

BK0703030693 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Mar 93 p A8

[Commentary by Tunsathit Thapthim]

[Text] What happened during the short-lived extraordinary session of Parliament and its fallout raised new questions about Thai politicians' democratic mentality. One MP shouted in the assembly hall for a "coup". The government allegedly plotted to have the House meeting end prematurely to avoid a potentially humiliating debate. Out-voted opposition MPs labelled the government "dictatorial" and walked out after failing to get things their way. And, finally, charges of back-stabbing abounded.

There were plenty of ironies: The MP who called for the coup belongs to Chat Thai, the core of the coalition government overthrown when the military flexed its muscles in 1991; the current administration has vowed to foster fair play in Parliament; and the opposition parties were those that formed the coup-toppled coalition which was accused of resorting to "parliamentary dictatorship".

Some embarrassing issues were a prelude to the turmoil. While the extraordinary session called to debate the annual Budget Bill was in progress, politicians attacked fellow MPs in the House budget scrutiny committee for trying to divert a big chunk of money to their own constituencies.

This followed another controversy over how MPs had exploited "rural development funds"—essentially taxpayers' money channelled through the politicians to their respective provinces—to gain political popularity.

Before the end of the budget debate, charges of corruption plagued the Community Development Department's [CDD] programme to eradicate dengue fever. The programme, carried out by the CDD since 1991, involves a costly process to release bacteria into mosquito-infested waters to destroy larvae. Both the government and Parliament are investigating the alleged graft.

The budget bill was passed in the early morning of Feb 27. After a brief rest, MPs gathered again that afternoon for what was left on the agenda—a labour ministry bill, an ad hoc House committee's report on the long-delayed insurance law for road accident victims, and the opposition's "urgent" motions.

The afternoon session ran into trouble when the government and the opposition failed to agree on what "urgent" issue should be given priority. Opposition MPs insisted they wanted an urgent debate on the financial crisis of the First City Investment Co, while the government stood firm on the original agenda, which placed the FCI issue after four other problems.

After the government used its numerical superiority in the House to maintain the old agenda, disgruntled opposition MPs paraded out of the assembly hall, some shouting abuse. At the critical moment; one voice pierced through the unruly atmosphere: "The military might as well stage another coup." One's initial reaction to Chat Thai MP Chai Chitchop's defiant remark was a shrug of the shoulders. But quickly it turned into a backlash, with several groups joining forces to lambast what was described an irresponsibly undemocratic comment.

The 65-year-old veteran claimed he was a victim of media distortion. If his remark was reported in full, according to the Buri Ram MP, it should have been: "We have gained democracy, but we don't love it and are squabbling among ourselves, the military should take it back." Witnesses and people who monitored the broadcast of the House debate insisted that Chai was actually far from being so reserved when he shouted emotionally in the assembly hall. They also argued that the remark in such a democratically symbolic place reflected the speaker's inner disdain for democracy.

Even armed forces leaders snubbed Chai, though some of them acknowledged that he had made the remark in anger and should not have been taken too seriously. Yet the MP seemed to deny that it was a slip of the tongue and expressed no remorse. Chai dismissed calls for him to resign, saying he had done nothing to discredit Parliament. He said his remark was in response to the "dictatorial" manner in which the government warded off the FCI issue.

But he apparently contradicted himself when confronted by reporters last week, saying at one point: "(In politics) we have to accept (decisions of) the majority." The Chai case put the opposition on the defensive at a time when opposition parties are trying hard to shake off their pro-military reputation. But the government had no time to celebrate.

Controversial coalition MP Piyanat Watcharaphon made another anti-government move on Wednesday when he claimed that the abrupt end of the extraordinary House session was in fact foreseen and plotted by the administration. He said that before the opposition's walkout, government "lobbyists" were trying to dissuade coalition MPs not to register their attendance so that the debate could not have begun in the first place.

Piyanat's allegation drew a strong response from the ruling Democrat Party. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai made an implicit call for coalition partners to keep their MPs in line. Democrat spokesman Akhom Eng-Chuan challenged the Social Action Party MP to identify the "lobbyists."

The opposition claimed the government did not want a debate on the FCI because the issue could embarrass the Democrat Party. The collapsing finance firm has been administered by the daughter of ex-Democrat leader Phichit Rattakun and, according to the opposition, its financial problem had been kept under wraps by the government. Piyanat's move could have a devastating effect on the government's credibility. Chuan has repeatedly emphasized his "respect" for parliamentary system, which, if properly fostered, can oust a bad government and install a good one without having to invite military intervention.

According to senior Social Action members who have thrown support behind Piyanat, the Democrat Party is spawning mistrust among coalition partners. The ruling party, it was alleged, tried to encourage members of the coalition parties to shun the House meeting but required all its own MPs to attend the session in the event of possible public criticism.

"The Democrat Party is playing stab-in-the-back politics. Democrat MPs tried to persuade their counterparts from other coalition parties not to sign the book of attendance for fear that a debate on the FCI problem would hurt the party's reputation," a high-level Social Action source said.

The Democrats and Social Action Party have been on bad terms. Recently, Social Action leader Montri Phongphanit accused Chuan's party of trying to discredit him by reviving debate over the political future of the "unusually rich" politicians. Montri and nine other politicians are appealing against post-coup summary investigation that found them to have accumulated "ill-gotten" assets. If the Democrat Party did try to sabotage the crucial House meeting, it would deserve intense political scrutiny and possibly face devastating consequences. If the Social Action was actually blowing things out of proportion, it had displayed poor political spirit.

Foreign Minister To Attend UN Refugee Meeting

BK0803071093 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and his party will be in New York and Washington D.C. throughout the week, attending UN round-table conference and holding talks at the United Nations and with the U.S. Administration. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek says after attending UN round-table conference on the refugees and the United Nations Headquarters tomorrow, the Foreign Minister will meet UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Wednesday. They are expected to discuss regional security issues, peace in Cambodia, and Thailand's cooperation with the United Nations.

The foreign minister will later travel to Washington D.C. He is scheduled to meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher as well as leaders in the new administration and the Congress.

Vietnam

UNTAC Charges on 3 Vietnamese 'Unacceptable'

BK0503153593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Over the last few days, the world public has been offended by UNTAC's [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] statement on the so-called three Vietnamese serving the Phnom Penh army and its demand for their expulsion. Here is our radio's opinion:

First of all, it should be affirmed that this is a gross action in the campaign of distorting and slandering Vietnam and undermining the Paris agreement on Cambodia. Charging these people as being in the Vietnamese armed forces is illogical and unacceptable which cannot (?benefit) anybody.

According to articles provided in the Paris agreement on foreign forces, these three people are not foreign armed forces. A foreign newsman has said these three people are not in any regiment as Democratic Kampuchea has claimed. Concerning this issue, the spokesman for the Cambodian government has affirmed that by now, there has been no Vietnamese generals, officers, or advisers in the State of Cambodia's Army. So, why the Democratic Kampuchea faction has deliberately tried to cook up this flimsy story which has been responded by UNTAC.

It is well known to the world public that so far, Democratic Kampuchea has plunged to the worn-out allegation that Vietnamese troops are still in Cambodia as pretext to refuse implementing and to undermine the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

Following their massacres against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, the Democratic Kampuchea has been (?totally) condemned and isolated. This time, they tried to rig up the so-called three Vietnamese people serving the Phnom Penh army in an attempt to (?backtrack) public opinon into hating Vietnam and justifying for their sabotage acts against the Paris agreement.

Radio BBC on Tuesday said the general election will be held in Cambodia in just three months and suddenly the Democratic Kampuchea will make a ballyhoo about that. Public opinion maintains that Democratic Kampuchea might continue to slander and oppose Vietnam if these recent allegations were not exposed and stopped.

As a peace-keeping force in Cambodia, UNTAC must be fair and objective, make it clear who has been seriously implementing and who has been sabotaging and preventing the peace process in this country.

It is regrettable that UNTAC has not taken any measures to force the Democratic Kampuchea to abide by the Paris agreement on Cambodia. Moreover, they chime in with them against Vietnam.

According to a Phnom Penh-based correspondent of the Japanese Newspaper ASAHI SHIMBUN on Thursday, there are many people suspecting UNTAC's intentions in releasing the news about three former Vietnamese soldiers serving the Phnom Penh army.

Vietnam seriously condemns and (?firmly) rejects that statement of UNTAC. Vietnam demands that the United Nations and UNTAC have (?preventive) measures to compel the Democratic Kampuchea to seriously and completely implement the Paris agreement. UNTAC and the Democratic Kampuchea must stop immediately their slandering against Vietnam. They must be fully responsible for their wrong acts.

Boeing Executive Optimistic About Business

BK0703061893 Hanoi VNA in English 0515 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 7—In 1992 the Boeing company of the United States many times sent its representatives to Vietnam to hold unofficial talks with Vietnam Airlines and Pacific Airlines to prepare the ground for the signing of contracts after the US lifts the embargo. A Boeing executive have briefed the Vietnamese side about various models of its aircraft as well as Boeing's experiences in air services so that Vietnam can make its own choice. The impending agreement may cover Boeing's comprehensive assistance to the Vietnam Civil Aviation service including finance, marketing, maintenance, advertisement and other activities.

The executive expressed his belief that in the future Vietnam may be a profitable market in view of the size of its population of 70 million in addition to the million overseas Vietnamese. Vietnam is also expanding fast its tourist industry and external trade, he added. He noted that passenger freights of Vietnam Airlines ranges from 80 to 90 pencent of capacity, a figure to be envied by many airlines. He expressed his confidence that Vietnamese pilots may quickly learn to handle sophistiscated jumbo jets such as 747 and 767 because they usually had long experience with helicopters and jets difficult to operate than the Boeings.

U.S. Companies Apply To Open Offices

BK0703062093 Hanoi VNA in English 0520 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 7—According to the Vietnam Investment Weekly, seven US companies have applied for permits to open their representative offices in Vietnam. These companies have got the approval of the US State Department and Department of Treasury. In the field of investment and trade consultancy there are Ashta International representated by Mr. Eugene Mathews and the companies Vatico and International Consulting Council.

In banking, Bank of America has applied and it is reported that Citibank may also be considering to apply. The gem industry is interesting Vic Gemrusa, meanwhile, Cidly, a company of Vietnamese residents in the United States, has applied to take charge of remittances from overseas Vietnamese to their relatives in Vietnam. Other companies which want to open offices in Vietnam include General Electric, Chrysler Motor Company and the law firm Baler and MacKenzie.

UK, U.S. Businessmen Tour Investment Sites

BK0803061193 Hanoi VNA in English 0547 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 8—Delegation from the FHP International PLC of the UK and the Recognition Equipment Incorporation (REI) of the US visited Vietnam in February to inquire into the possibilities of investment in Vietnam.

President Julian Ridsdale and Vice-President Mrs. Victoria Evelyn Julian and 13 other members of FHP Internatonal PLC which specialises in consultancy, infrastructure construction and tourism introduced to the Vietnamese Government its draft investment projects in Vietnam. Worthy of note are projects to upgrade electric plants in southern Vietnam, to build an oil refinery, to build a major tourist centre in Nha Trang town of the central coastal province of Khanh Hoa, to repair and upgrade the Tan Son Nhat, Noi Bai and and Nha Trang airports, to build more hospitals and re-equip others, and to build food processing factories, first of all the Vinh Thinh mineral water bottling factory in Khanh Hoa Province.

For their part, representatives of the REI headed by international executive manager James M. Bothmann met with Vietnamcombank, Eximbank and Incombank during which they offered to help upgrade the country's infrastructures and modernize the equipment of Vietnam's banks.

ICRC To Close Office Without Fulfilling Mission

BK0803061993 Hong Kong AFP in English 0551 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] HANOI, March 8 (AFP)—The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] will close its Hanoi office this month without having accomplished one of its principal tasks—visiting Vietnam's political prisoners, ICRC delegate Peter Lutolf said Monday. The Geneva-based organization, which opened its office here in 1946, will continue its contacts with the Vietnamese government and Red Cross society through the ICRC's regional office in Bangkok after March 31, he said.

Budgetary constraints and the completion last year of several tasks, such as repatriating the last 23 Vietnamese soldiers taken prisoner during the 1979 war with China, contributed to the ICRC's decision to close here, he said. But the ICRC, which monitors political prisoners around the world, will continue to press for access to Vietnam's prisons, he said.

"What we would still like to achieve is to visit the political prisoners," Lutolf said. "But this is not something we can force on a government. It relies on their goodwill." No authoritative estimate is available of the number of political prisoners in Vietnamese jails, re-education camps or under house arrest, though dozens of cases have been documented by international human rights groups. Vietnam maintains that its treatment of those who break Vietnamese law is an internal matter, a position that makes no distinction between common criminals and political offenders.

Lutolf confirmed that the last re-education camp inmates interned for their association with the pre-1975 Saigon government were released last year, as announced by Hanoi. But he said the camps were still being used for an unknown number of Vietnamese arrested since the war, ranging from political prisoners to prostitutes. In recent years, the ICRC has helped the Vietnamese Red Cross set up a program to trace relatives lost during wartime, and a center to make artificial limbs in southern Vietnam—programs that are running smoothly now, Lutolf said. The ICRC, which has also been involved with the boat people issue, will maintain a small liaison office in Hanoi.

The departure of the Swiss ICRC delegate nonetheless comes as a blow for Vietnam's efforts to burnish its image by building ties with international organizations, observers said.

PRC Friendship Delegation Tours Country

BK0503141793 Hanoi VNA in English 1356 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 5—A delegation of the China-Vietnam friendship association led by its President Fu Hao, who is also member of the Standing Committee of the people's congress, has paid a week-long working visit to Vietnam. Besides Hanoi, the delegation toured Ho Chi Minh City and Ha Bac Province, and had working sessions with the Central Committee of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association.

The delegation was received on separate occasions by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, vice president of the state Hong Ha, secretary of the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee and head of its International Relations Commission and Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly. It will leave for home tomorrow.

Ministry Works To Create Jobs, Receives Foreign Aid

BK0803064793 Hanoi VNA in English 0547 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 8—With approval of the government, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Welfare has worked out many projects of coopertion with agencies at home and abroad aimed at creating jobs for returning Vietnamese guest workers in this year and the years to come.

So far, 201 projects for labourer groups or individuals have been approved, of which 176 are to receive financial support from Germany, and 25 others from Czech and Slovakia. Total cost for these projects is estimated at 75 million USD [U.S dollars]. It is hoped that the projects will create enough jobs for the more than 30,000 overseas workers who have returned or are returning home.

According to a survey by the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and social welfare, between 80 and 90 percent of the returning workers have not been able to find employment.

Last year, the Vietnamese Government signed various protocols with Germany and Czech and Slovakia, where most overseas Vietnamese workers are working under contracts signed between Vietnam and the former German Democratic Republic and Czechslovakia. The protocols provide for German, Czech and Slovak assistance to help Vietnam create jobs for those workers who would return from these countries before their contracts expire. Subsequently, Germany gave Vietnam a grant of 5 million DM [Deutsche marks] and a loan of 10 million DM at an interest rate of 0.75 percent a year for 40 years. Czech and Slovakia granted Vietnam 400 million kurons.

—Ho Chi Minh City is striving to create 120,000 jobs this year. This represents 44 percent of the total number of unemployed labourers in the city.

A major effort of the city in this direction is to invest in small-sized projects which can create up to 30,000 jobs. New settlements and small businesses and services are expected to employ 34,000 workhands.

Do Muoi Delivers Tet Get-Together Speech

BK0503132993 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 21 Jan 93 p 1

["Full text" of speech by Party General Secretary Do Muoi at lunar new year celebration held by Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee in Hanoi on 20 January: "Motivating the entire people to make our country rich, strong, and civilized"]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this occasion, I am very glad to be with representatives of people from all walks of life, organizations, and overseas Vietnamese to say goodbye to the Year of the Monkey and welcome to the Year of the Rooster.

The Vietnamese homeland is our beloved great family and the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] is an organization in which we discuss all tasks useful and beneficial to the nation and our families and coordinate our actions for the goal of making our people rich, our country strong, and our society civilized.

For 18 years since our national unification, our people scored many encouraging achievements in 1992. Due to our people's striving and correct and timely party and state's line and policy, we produced 24 million tons of food, increased food reserves, and exported nearly 2 million tons of food. With more than 5 million tons of oil exploited last year, we collected significant revenue to meet import and budget payments. Inflation was driven one step further together with the relatively comprehensive socioeconomic development. And the 1992 total general production output was increased about seven percent, compared to the previous year.

1992 is the year that our national budget collected enough revenue for its regular expenses. Our foreign relation activities were carried out with great intensity in a broad domain with increasing scale and diversified content.

Those are very important achievements, confirming that we have stood firm and moved forward with our own intelligence and strength. The face of the country is gradually improving. It is possible to say that a large part of the population is better off now. The number of people fleeing the country is nearly nil and the number of overseas Vietnamese coming back to welcome this new year is much higher than the previous years. I heard that some of them were unable to come back because air tickets had run out. Every country which has suffered a war is always subjected to family scattering, especially our country which had to endure the longest war of the century with more than 20 years of partition. Today, faraway sons are revisiting their motherland one after another, bringing joy to all of us. Last time, during an interview with the newspaper DAI DOAN KET (Great Unity) on the issue of "reconciling the nation, eliminating hatred, and looking to the future", I conveyed a message advising the overseas Vietnamese to visit the country to see with their own eyes that the country is becoming more prosperous, beautiful and to understand our difficulties so that they can realize their responsibility in the construction of our rich and strong fatherland.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 1992 achievements were scored with significant contributions of the VFF at all levels. It solicited public opinions for the construction of the 1992 Constitution, which was passed by the National Assembly. It recommended qualified people to the Ninth National Assembly to decide on national issues on behalf of the people. These are important democratic advances on the way to build a law governed Vietnamese state.

To mark the 45th Injured Soldier and Fallen Combatant Day, 27 July 1992, the front at all levels creatively motivated movements of House of Love and Golden Savings Book and provided thorough and practical care to the families of fallen combatants, injured soldiers, and social welfare recipients.

The work of the VFF cadres is normally silent but with great significance. Focusing on grassroots, populous areas, and families, the VFF cadres do hundreds of unnamed tasks aiming for political stability and uniting people in subwards, housing clusters, and villages.

The front has actively participated in the movement to do away with hunger and poverty in various localities. We should encourage any attempt to enrich oneself through legal means and should, at the same time, be intent on providing assistance to a not inconsiderable number of families which are now suffering from destitution. This solicitous care reflects the superiority of our regime and our people's tradition of mutual help. At present, the number of families suffering from hunger and poverty at certain neighborhoods account for as many as 30 percent of the local population. A handful of people are spending slavishly while others have to struggle hard to earn a living. A large number of people, including those workers who earn their living by legal means and those families which are credited with revolutionary deeds, are facing difficulties and destitution. I hope that the front will pay more attention to doing away with hunger and poverty.

The Party Central Committee's Fourth Plenum issued many resolutions—namely, the resolution on education and training tasks, the resolution on a number of cultural and artistic tasks during the years ahead, the resolution on urgent issues concerning public healthcare and health protection, the resolution on the population- and family planning-related policy, and the resolution on the youth-related task in the new situation. This time the Party Central Committee's plenum was focused on humanity and on the welfare and happiness of the people and aimed at developing human beings more fully—mentally, physically, spiritually, and ethically. The plenum solved many important issues directly connected with the welfare and future of the people, of every family, and of the entire society. It is certain that various party and state organs will cooperate closely with the front at various echelons in motivating the entire people to achieve those targeted tasks of the Seventh Party Congress and of various Party Central Committee plenums in a bid to build our country into a prosperous, powerful and civilized one capable of eradicating its lingering enemy which is poverty and backwardness.

The Vietnam Fatherland Front, the largest political and social organization, serves as an assembly point for those local and overseas mass organizations and individuals who share the same desire to promptly help Vietnam over its poverty and backwardness so as to catch up with other countries in the world. During the war of resistance, the front was a solid prop of the party and the state—a factor that decided the victory of the revolution. During peaceful construction, now more than ever before, the role of the front should be all the more consolidated, broadened, and strengthened.

The newspaper DAI DOAN KET, a press organ of the front, has made commendable contributions to promoting the growth of the all-people great solidarity bloc. I hope that the front and the state will help this newspaper fulfill its lofty mandate.

Dear distinguished guests:

Tet is an occasion for us to remember our ancestors and grandparents—those who shed their sweat and blood to build and defend our beloved fatherland and who left us a beautiful country as it is today. We remember President Ho Chi Minh, our great leader who held high the banner of great national unity and who gathered the people of various strata into a powerful force with which we defeated the enemy of all stripes and regained independence and freedom. We pledge to fully achieve the objectives set forth by him, that is, "Independence For The Nation, Freedom For The People, and Happiness For The Compatriots". And we will engrave deep in our hearts his following teaching:

"Unity, Unity, Great Unity,
"Success, Success, Great Success."

On the occasion of the new year, on behalf of the Communist Party of Vietnam—a component of the Vietnam Fatherland Front—I would like to extend my wishes for good health to lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, president of the Presidium of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, to members of the presidium, and to the representatives of various mass organizations and of other component organizations of the front. I also would like to extend to the people nationwide and overseas Vietnamese my best wishes for a New Year full of good health, happiness, and success.

Australia

Election Campaign Ends With Television Debate

BK0803080593 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Australia's national election campaign has ended its final week with the second television debate between the Labor prime minister, Paul Keating, and the Liberal National Party coalition, John Hewson. Both leaders say they landed telling blows. But while Labor strategists were pleased with the outcome, the liberals expressed concern that Dr. Hewson was disadvantaged by the way questions were framed.

While many Australians are still deciding who they will vote for on Saturday, thousands of others have had to make their decision early. In the Northern Territory, it's estimated up to 15,000 people in isolated communities will cast their vote before March the 13th at mobile polling booths. Electoral Commission officers are using four-wheel drives and planes to get to 193 remote communities.

Keating Said To Win

BK0803093093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0824 GMT 8 Mar 93

[By Jack Taylor]

[Text] Brisbane, Australia, March 8 (AFP)—Prime Minister Paul Keating began the final week of campaigning for the March 13 poll here Monday, warning that a coalition victory would mean a step backwards to conservative orthodoxy far more agressive than anything Australia has seen before. It would mean policies modelled by computer "on software provided by Margaret Thatcher" and a goods and services tax (GST) that had failed in every anglophone country in which it had been tried. It had ground the people down in Britain, flattened New Zealand and the same had happened in Canada where its champion Brian Mulroney was forced recently to resign, Keating told a crowd of several hundred supporters during a whistle-stop tour of the north eastern state of Queensland.

The prime minister had a fresh spring in his step and a bigger smile on his face following his win in Sunday night's televised debate against opponent John Hewson, leader of the conservative coalition of Liberal and National parties. Keating's Labor government also received a boost Monday from the release of a survey showing job vacancies at a two-year high.

In Sunday's debate, which he had to win to have any chance of reversing the electoral tide, which the latest polls suggested had swung back against him, Keating was judged a clear winner by a panel of uncommitted voters and by the media. Hewson complained immediately after the debate that it had concentrated largely on his tax reform policies, and many of his supporters alleged bias on the part of debate moderator Kerrie O'Brien, one of Australia's most respected journalists.

Keating brought howls of laughter as he told his audience here that Hewson was the first opposition leader in history to complain because debate was focusing on his policies. "You know why?" said Keating, "because they are bad policies."

Keating's rhetoric also indicated a late change of style in which he is using the weapons that had become his stock in trade— ridicule and scorn, spiced with a dash of humour and delivered in a largely unscripted speech. He accused Hewson of taking "the coward's choice" by cancelling the opposition leader's traditional end-of-campaign speech to the National Press Club and refusing to face experienced questioners because he was unable to explain his policies. But he was brave enough to stand at a lectern taking the rise out of adolescent hecklers at a campaign rally of liberal supporters. "The public now know they have to make a choice" the prime minister added. "They know if they stick with Labor the 1990s have the promise of a low inflation competitive country linked to the Asia-Pacific region. On the other hand, they know there is a radical alternative."

What Hewson offered was conservatism at its worst, he said.

"This is the conservative orthodoxy which is far more radical and far more regressive than anything Australia has seen before ... People will have to stand alone against their employers while the liberals give the boss the whip hand under the master-servant provision of the common law.

"And they know if they take the conservative agenda they take the booby prize of Australian public policy—the GST, a huge pernicious tax which will change Australian lives forever."

Keating commented that Hewson keeps saying he has a plan. "But this is not a plan for Australia. This is just a borrowed text, a plan for Britain in the late 1970s, a plan for America in the '80s and a plan for New Zealand and Canada in the '80s," he said, adding the tax had failed in all those countries. "It doesn't work," Keating said. "The plan is hopeless."

Keating, Hewson 'Evenly Matched'

BK0803115793 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 8 Mar 93

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Paul Keating, and the leader of the opposition coalition, John Hewson, have met in a final televised debate before facing Australian voters next Saturday. The latest public opinion poll show the opposition increasing its lead over the ruling Australian Labor Party, which if translated to votes would see the government lose power. A poll taken among viewers of the debate shows that the prime minister, Mr. Keating, won the hour-long debate. But coalition strategists alleged a pro-government bias on the part of the senior journalist who chaired the debate. National affairs correspondent Kate Wall reports from Canberra that both leaders were evenly matched with neither an obvious winner, a fact which still works in Dr. Hewson's favor.

[Begin recording] [Wall] Going into the fifth and final week of this campaign, opinion polls are again showing the conservative opposition led by relative political newcomer John Hewson pulling away from the ruling labor government. With the massive television audience, the final debate between Dr. Hewson and Prime Minister Paul Keating was crucial for both leaders—for Mr. Keating, to persuade a cynical electorate that his 10-year-old government deserves another term when unemployment is at record levels; for Dr. Hewson, to counter the government's scare campaign against his proposed goods and services tax [GST]. Both men came up with new lines for the debate. Dr. Hewson talked of a labor government of queues—unemployment queues, hospital queues, education queues; Mr. Keating said Australia under a liberal party government would be a dog-eat-dog society.

[Keating] I believe we don't want to go to a dog-eat-dog, survival-of-the-fittest society. That is, because we've been in a recession we throw off all of the values the nation's had—decency, tolerance, fairness, fair go—thrown over to one side and go for a set of values which says if you're socially fit and financially fit you're right; if you're not, you're out—a dog-eat-dog mentality.

[Wall] In the face of sustained questioning and interruptions from the senior political journalists chairing the debate, Dr. Hewson again strongly defended his proposed 15-percent GST, which would be introduced 18 months after an opposition victory. And he denied looking to the 1980's policies of Britain and the United States.

[Hewson] But you can't translate the experience of any other country to Australia. There is no attempt by us to be a Reagan or to be a Thatcher. That is just dead wrong. But the fact is, we design a policy package for the circumstances today. And why do we do that? Because we are absolutely appalled at the prospect that is in Australia today and what sort of policy (?should stand) in this government. We are about to see our kids enjoy a lower standard of living than we have in fact enjoyed ourselves.

[Wall] A small opinion poll of undecided voters found 54 percent of people believe the prime minister won the debate, 33 percent thinking Dr. Hewson had, and the rest undecided. In fact, there was no clear winner with both leaders giving convincing performances. The opposition strategists are crying foul claiming ABC [Australian Broadcasting Corporation] television journalist Kerry O'Brien was not neutral in his handling of the debate. Despite the recession Dr. Hewson goes into this final week in a strong position. The debate is unlikely to give the opposition the lead and without a major gust [against Hewson] in the next five days, Dr. Hewson and his Liberal National Party colleagues stand to win office. [end recording]

Papua New Guinea

Administrator Urges Suspending Solomons Talks

BK0503074293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government's administrator of the troubled island of Bougainville, Sam Tulo, said Port Moresby should suspend further talks with Solomon Islands on the Bougainville crisis. Mr. Tulo said the talks should remain suspended until after the Solomon Islands elections are held in May. He made the call when expressing disappointment over the Mamaloni government's decision not to hand over to PNG the Bougainville secession sympathizer, Rose Mary Galaxy. Mr. Tulo said the fact that Miss Galaxy was allowed to leave only days after the foreign ministers of the two countries had discussed, among other things, action to be taken against her proof that the Mamaloni government would not honor any agreement it made with PNG. Solomon Islands had earlier said it could not extradite Miss Galaxy as it did not have an extradition arrangement with PNG.

Minister Appeals for Fairness for Bougainvillians

BK0703063093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Papua New Guinea's [PNG] minister for Bougainville affairs has appealed to the public not to target innocent Bougainvillians for abuse or mistreatment. Sean Dorney reports that the minister, Michael Ogio, said he had been told the recent killing of eight PNG soldiers on Bougainville had led to incidents or harassments of Bougainvillians in Port Moresby. Mr. Ogio said he could understand the people who had relatives killed on Bougainville were upset and that many Papua New Guineans were fed up and wanted to see an end to the Bougainville crisis. However, he claimed it was wrong to see the situation as a war between all Bougainvillians and other Papua New Guineans. Mr. Ogio claimed there were hundreds of Bougainvillians living in Port Moresby who are proud to be citizens of PNG. He said some of these people had been mistreated and abused because they were being blamed for the latest killings by the rebel Bougainville Revolutionary Army.